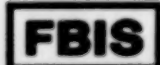


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South and East Asia Report

No. 1058



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7 October 1981

SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

No. 1058

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FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS REJECTION OF GRIFFIN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that India opposed the posting of Mr George Griffin as political counsellor at the US Embassy in Delhi in order to save the relations between the two countries from becoming more "unfriendly".

Though he described as unjustified and unwarranted the US retaliatory step in opposing the posting of Mr T. Prabhakar Menon at the Indian Embassy in the US, Mr Rao said he could not call it an unfriendly act.

Mr Rao said India requested the US to reassign Mr Griffin to some other post in view of the 'activities of this gentleman'. Mr Rao, however, did not elaborate.

Mr Rao said that Mr Griffin's posting to India was objected to after a careful evaluation of his activities when he was posted in Calcutta.

"India's intention was to avoid the likelihood of greater friction being introduced into our bilateral relations with the US, which we value and have always sought to strengthen."

The Minister was replying to a calling attention motion on reported Indo-US differences over the posting of diplomats in India and Washington respectively. The motion was tabled by Mr S. M. Krishna, Mr Ramvilas Paswan, Mrs Geeta Mukherjee, Mr B. V. Desai and Mr M. V. Chandrashekhara Murthy.

Mr Rao regretted the stand of the US authorities that in case India did not find it possible to reverse the decision on Mr Griffin's case, they would ask this country to withdraw the proposed assignment of a senior foreign service officer, Mr T. Prabhakar Menon to the US.

United States was informed that India considered this 'unprecedented retaliatory step on their part as unwarranted and unjustified', he added.

Mr Rao explained to Mrs Mukherjee that Mr Menon was never posted to the US. In fact, he had nothing to do with the US on his previous posting, including the one in Delhi.

While India was trying to do everything to avert friction in Indo-US relations, the good relations depended on response from both side, he said.

The Minister hoped that the 'limited matter' of posting of officers would not give rise to any side issue.

Mr Rao denied that the objection to Mr Griffin's posting was raised on somebody's prompting. The objection was made on India's own information.

He regretted particularly the statement of the US State Department that "this action was taken at a time when Mr Griffin was a target of a Soviet disinformation campaign".

It is incorrect to suggest that views, information and pronouncements made by any other country played part in India's decision. Any such conclusion or insinuation is resented by the Government of India.

Mr S. M. Krishna (Cong-I) said the whole world knew that India did not have a set up like the CIA which had its tentacles spread to all corners of the world. He wondered why Mr Griffin had been allowed to visit India frequently while he was posted in Kabul.

Mr Rao said according to his information Mr Griffin's family was here. Apart from that there was no reason for giving Mr Griffin a multi-purpose visa to visit India.

Mr Dam Vilas Paswan (Lok Dal) said both India and the US had drifted apart and could not be brought together in the present situation. India and the US had reached the extremes in their ties.

When Mr Paswan wanted to quote from a book written by a former ambassador, Deputy Speaker G. Lakshmanan disallowed him saying that was irrelevant and had nothing to do with the subject matter of the calling attention motion.

Several CPI and CPI-M members pleaded that the quotes from the book were relevant.

Mr Lakshmanan remained firm and said it was for him to guide the deliberations of the House.

Mrs Geeta Mukherjee (CPI) asked if it was a normal diplomatic practice to reject persons without assigning any reasons.

Mr B. V. Desai (Cong-I) wanted to know the steps taken by the Government to improve the sagging ties between India and the US. He felt this difference on the posting of diplomats should be tackled on political level.

CSO: 4220/7746

GANDHI ADDRESSES WOMEN'S SCIENCE CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 81 pp 1, 6

[Text] Bombay, Sept. 8 (UNI)--Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today appealed to the scientists and technologists to ensure that their national loyalties do not clash with international priorities.

Inaugurating the Sixth International Conference of Women Scientists and Engineers here Mrs Gandhi said the moral concern of the scientists should prevent the misuse of scientific advancement to the detriment of some sections of the population.

Mrs Gandhi said while age old superstitions were said to be holding back scientific and technological advancement, the educated lot forgot the negative impact of 'new superstitions which are as bad as the old superstitions'.

'Scientists believe that they have solutions for all the problems but science has created a greater number of problems than what they have solved' she said.

Science was indeed a knowledge of consequences, she said and pointed out that some elements of scientific advancement had taken mankind nearer to annihilation.

The Prime Minister referred to the problems created by destructive weapons and pollution and opined that scientists should raise their voice of sanity and ensure that mankind benefited to the utmost.

Self-Reliance

Mrs Gandhi said scientists in India should help the country in achieving its goal of self-reliance adding that it was unfortunate the educated lot on whom 'we spend a lot of money in training and education, migrate to the advanced countries to assist them in their growth.'

It was also unfortunate that 80 per cent of the natural resources in the world was used for the benefit of less than 20 per cent of the population she said. Efforts should be made to ensure that the fruits of science and technology benefit people in all parts of the world.

Referring to women the Prime Minister said that they should give up feeling of inferiority and added that scientists, both men and women should work together to eradicate poverty and disease.

French scientist M^{me} Nicole Becarud, the chairperson of the fifth international conference of women engineers and scientists, said that advancement should ensure equal responsibility between men and women in technical and scientific activities.

Dr Sumati Bhide, chairperson of this conference, said that the Indian Women Scientists Association (IWSA) would struggle to take science to the people for the benefit of the masses.

Dr Kamal Ranadive, founder-member of IWSA felt unhappy that benefits of scientific progress were not reaching the masses in India due to its age-old cultural and social values. It was time she opined for all of us to adopt the new culture of science to solve our problems.

CSO: 4220/7746

EDITORIAL NOTES BENGAL CPI, CPI-M RAPPROCHEMENT

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 6 Sep 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Return of the Native"]

[Text] The West Bengal CPI's willingness to join the Left Front is expected to put a formal seal on the present close relations between the two; the Front is unlikely to spurn the move. It was exactly a decade ago that the CPI broke with the CPI(M) after an uneasy partnership in two United Front Ministries and chose to align itself with Mrs Gandhi's party. The estrangement lasted till the 1980 Lok Sabha poll when the CPI was reluctantly accepted by the CPI(M) as an electoral partner of the Front. Since then, however, the two have gradually come closer, although there are still sharp differences on several issues. The CPI(M), for instance, still seems to harbour misgivings about the CPI's attitude towards the Congress (I); the feeling seems to persist, at least among the West Bengal Marxists, that the chances of the CPI changing its present line under Soviet pressure cannot be ruled out. In earlier pronouncements, the CPI had made it clear that it continued to support Mrs Gandhi's foreign policy, while disagreeing with her on internal issues. After its recent National Council meeting, however, the party's general secretary, Mr Rajeswara Rao, indicated a slight change by complaining that the Prime Minister was trying to equate the Soviet Union with the USA by talking about super-Power rivalry. The allegation may have been aimed at weakening the position of the pro-Dange elements in the CPI. In any event, this stance along with continuing criticism of Mrs Gandhi's domestic policies, has possibly softened the CPI(M)'s attitude. Perhaps the Marxists also feel that the presence of both Communist Parties in the Left Front would be a greater deterrent to any move to topple the West Bengal Government.

Sections of the CPI, on their part, have serious reservations about the CPI(M). The pro-Dange group's hostility is well-known; some others, too, are said to be uneasy about what they regard as the CPI(M)'s sectarian and domineering attitude. If, despite these differences, the two are on the point of entering into a formal alliance, it is perhaps because of their experience during the period of estrangement. A sizable section in the CPI came to the conclusion that the party had made a mistake in going along with the Congress (I), whereas the Marxists, despite recent electoral successes, have come to consider it necessary to guard against the kind of political isolation that they had gone through during 1972-77. The West Bengal CPI's decision, however, may continue to be a subject of some controversy within the party. There may be problems within the Front as well.

The CPI leaders are right in saying that the party is not interested in Ministerial offices as it was not a partner of the Front in the 1977 election; in any case the next State Assembly elections are due in less than a year. However, even after its late entry, the CPI may gradually come to occupy the second position in the Front ahead of the RSP and the Forward Bloc, which could cause some resentment.

CSO: 4220/7732

GANDHI SAYS INDISCIPLINE IN PARTY MUST BE CURBED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 9--Mrs Gandhi today expressed herself strongly against dissident activity in her party in a number of States. Addressing a meeting of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party executive, Mrs Gandhi regretted the indiscipline in the party and said she wanted this to be curbed immediately. The party members should keep a vigil on such activities and report to the party high command whenever members indulged in indiscipline.

She also expressed her distress at the absence of a number of her party M.P.s whenever either House of Parliament discuss important issues.

After a long time the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party returned to its earlier office premises, right at the entrance of Parliament's main gate, which it had lost to the Congress-U (now Congress-S) after its 1977 defeat. Mr K. Lakkappa, secretary of the CPP(I) welcomed Mrs Gandhi and requested her to inaugurate the new office.

The Congress (I) Parliamentary Board today decided to name Mr Shiv Lal Valmiki and Mr Ram Punjab Patel, former Deputy Ministers, for two by-elections to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh.

Announcing the names Mr Vasant Rao Patil, AICC (I) general secretary, said that Mr Valmiki is a Harijan and Mr Patel belongs to a backward class.

The board also decided to field Mr Zulfiqar Ali Khan for the by-election to the U.P. Vidhan Parishad. The seat had fallen vacant following the election of the Chief Minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, to the Vidhan Sabha.

The board, which met for about half an hour at the Prime Minister's office in Parliament House, considered some 16 names for the Rajya Sabha elections, including those of Mr Yashpal Kapoor, Mrs Aziz Imam and Mr Devendra Dwivedi.

CSO: 4220/7748

REPORT ON GANDHI MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT SECRETARIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Sep 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, September 5--The prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said today that the country was in a "very difficult phase economically, politically and militarily" and the challenge could be met by developing "a greater sense of national purpose."

The task should not be left only to those in politics, the prime minister told secretaries to the government in an hour-long talk. Officials must share the responsibility.

Mrs. Gandhi observed: "There is a crisis, which is an Indian crisis and also an international crisis. We have to meet it with unity and determination. We cannot afford to adopt any lackadaisical approach."

Referring to "a major and sustained campaign to downgrade" India, the prime minister said: "We have to be alert all the time to refute anything anti-Indian said or done and safeguard the country's image."

Respect for India would increase only "if we take a firm stand in dealing with other countries," she said. It was wrong to think that "we will earn more goodwill by giving in."

Development Tasks

The major task of senior officials today was that of development and not law and order as in the pre-Independence days. She said the officials should function with a sense of commitment and national purpose.

The prime minister regretted that the term "commitment" had attracted criticism in the past because it had been misconstrued. She said "commitment" should be not to a person or party but to national objectives and the accepted programmes of the government.

She said she expected senior officials to express themselves fearlessly on important subjects even though some ministers might not appreciate this. She was also advising the ministers to encourage officials to put forward their views freely.

"Of course," she reminded the officials, "once a political decision is taken, you will have to carry it out."

She assured the civil servants that they would not be punished for bona fide mistakes. However, non-performance would be taken as seriously as good performance.

The prime minister called for a sense of urgency on the part of officials in handling their work. Deadlines and targets were not meant to be pushed back. If these were not strictly adhered to, the result would be avoidable cost escalation, at a time when the country was in the grip of inflation.

In many areas, she felt, the targets had been set very low. This would result in under-utilisation of capacity which must be avoided in order to ensure the fulfilment of objectives set out in the sixth plan.

Mrs. Gandhi said the term bureaucracy was not very popular with the people. It had come to be associated with red-tape, deferring of decisions and indifference to the common man. She did not agree that all bureaucrats were necessarily bureaucratic.

But this widely prevalent feeling could and should be removed by senior officials if they displayed special care in the execution of programmes for the welfare of weaker sections. If such programmes failed, people would lose their sense of hope. This could lead to despair and if that happened it would mean the end of all progress.

Mrs. Gandhi cited her own experience. She said she received scores of letters from the public, especially from younger people, which contained suggestions for improvement in various areas.

She found that very little action was taken by ministries when she forwarded the letters to them. The ministries did not take direct representations by people seriously. This kind of cool approach could dampen the enthusiasm of well-meaning people who sent useful and concrete proposals.

Mrs. Gandhi also criticised the tendency of officials to harp on rules and remarked that this traditional habit should change. It should not be forgotten that even rules were framed to achieve certain objectives. If they stood in the way, the rules should be amended.

The prime minister said she was aware of the increased burden on officials nowadays. When the ICS or even the IAS was constituted, its primary responsibility was law and order. Now the main task before the officials was to ensure speedy and all-round development. In the coming days, these burdens would increase.

Officials would be able to cope with the task only with greater co-operation from the people. After all, it did not cost officials anything to be friendly and courteous to the public and make an honest effort to meet their legitimate grievances.

The prime minister asked the secretaries and other senior officials to feel a sense of involvement in the public sector. They should not interfere in the day-to-day work of public sector units. But they should feel themselves responsible and accountable for its good performance.

Referring to her recent discussions with a cross-section of young industrialists, Mrs. Gandhi said one of them felt that officials were flocking to the public sector because it offered full security without accountability. She did not share this view. But the prevalence of such a feeling must be taken note of.

Mrs. Gandhi asked the officials to adopt a programmatic rather than management approach. They should function in a result-oriented way while ensuring fair play and justice.

She said senior officials must shed their snobbery in their dealings with their juniors. They should evince keen interest in the working conditions of class III and IV employees.

On visits to some ministries she had noticed that the administrative staff was engulfed by heaps of files with no scope for fresh air.

The prime minister also stressed the need for eliminating corruption and activating vigilance sections in various ministries.

She asked the officials to develop an overall perspective while discharging their responsibilities. There was no need for them to be apologetic about the progress made by the country in the past three decades.

CSO: 4220/7730

CONGRESS-I 'DISTURBED' OVER ANDHRA PRADESH POLLS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Sep 81 p 4

[Text] Hyderabad, Sept. 11—The Congress-I high command appears to be a little perturbed over the party's recent debacle at the civic elections at Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, the two major political and industrial centres of the State and considered a citadel of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Indication to this effect was available from the talks AICC-I general secretary S. S. Mahapatra had with newsmen on his arrival this evening to study the political situation', in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr Mahapatra, commenting on the poll debacle in the two municipal corporation elections, said 'This is all the more needed for revitalising the party organisation in coastal area. I also want to find out where we lack in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada where we lost corporations'.

When he was reminded that the Congress-I in Andhra Pradesh had won an overwhelming majority of the municipalities and losing two municipal corporations was not a big debacle, Mr Mahapatra said 'Even a small defeat we do not take it easily' and added that the high command had received a large number of reports on the debacle.

Asked whether the emergence of a dissident group against the non-performance of the Government of Mr Anjiah had come to the notice of the high command, Mr Mahapatra said, 'I am not aware of this.

However there may be dissidents here or elsewhere. The workers may express their grievances from time to time. But they have ultimate and supreme faith in Mrs Gandhi'.

Mr Mahapatra said now, the time has come for enlarging the activities of the party with the successful completion of elections to various bodies pending for a decade. In fact, he had come to Hyderabad to review and reactivate the party organisation at various levels and to help implementation of the 20-point economic programme of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

CSO: 4220/7753

DETAILS ON INDIA-BANGLADESH STATEMENT GIVEN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Sep 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to take immediate and effective steps to resolve the major outstanding issues "that have been acting as a source of irritation and strain" on relations between them.

Minister for External Affairs P. V. Narasimha Rao and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mohd Shamsul Haq in their talks this week in New Delhi agreed that the Foreign Secretaries of the two Governments will meet next month and revalue all available data to pave a way for an early and peaceful solution to the New Moore Island controversy that was causing tension.

The two Foreign Ministers said they would meet again at an early date to resolve the Farakka issue.

A joint statement released on Sunday at the end of Mr Haq's visit to India said the two countries reaffirmed that efforts should be made to ensure that peace and tranquility are maintained on the border. Each side agreed to take effective measures to stop illegal movement of people across the border and to prevent their respective territories from being used for hostile activities directed against the other.

The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere. The release described the discussion on the New Moore Island as 'free and frank'. The statement also noted the similarity in their views on many international issues and agreed to cooperate closely in various international forums in upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter and the non-aligned movement.

On delimitation of the maritime boundary, India and Bangladesh reiterated that the question should be resolved "by mutual agreement in a spirit of understanding and good neighbourliness" and proposed another meeting at an early date.

At the talks, first in more than a year between the two Foreign Ministers since Mr Rao's August 1980 visit to Dacca, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and also discussed regional and international matters of mutual interest.

They expressed their firm belief that the foundation for building good neighbourly relations lay in mutual respect, trust and goodwill.

Both sides agreed to intensify efforts for completion of steps already agreed upon at the Indo Bangladesh secretary-level talks at New Delhi in October, 1980 towards early implementation of the 1974 land boundary agreement. The two sides confirmed their respective government's acceptance of the delineation on map, by their survey officials, of the territory to be leased at Tin Bigha.

It was agreed that a meeting at the level of Foreign Secretaries would be held in October, 1981 to resolve all outstanding problems related to the land boundary, including finalisation of the terms and conditions of the lease-in-perpetuity of the Tin Bigha corridor. Pending finalisation of the terms of lease, conditions would be created to ensure that necessary facilities of access which have so far been provided would continue to remain available.

As regards the establishment of railway links between the two countries, both sides agreed to take further positive steps to advance progress on the basis of the talks that have been held between the two railways in October 1980.

The two sides also agreed that the momentum of progress in the implementation of the proposal for regional cooperation among the South Asian countries should be maintained and all necessary steps for this purpose should be undertaken in concert with other neighbouring countries in the south Asian region.

NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO MANIPUR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Imphal, Sept 4 (UNI)—Chief Minister Rishang Keishing today expanded his two-and-a-half-month-old Council of Ministers with the addition of six Cabinet Ministers and five Ministers of State, who were sworn in this afternoon at Raj Bhavan.

Mr Keishing's ministerial team now consists of 19 members.

The Cabinet Ministers who took office today are: Messrs Tompok Singh, Soso Lorno, Y. Trabot Singh, D. Juanang, Mr Krishan Singh, and Mr Mahamuddin.

The Ministers of State taken in are Messrs H. Khongosai, Mr Rajdham Singh, K. Vungialian, P. H. Sagar Singh and H. Kangjamba.

An official spokesman said Mr Tompok Singh would be deputy leader of the Congress-I Legislature Party. He was elevated to the position at a meeting here last evening.

Mr Singh and Mr Lorho were Cabinet Ministers in the last Ministry. Other Cabinet Ministers were Ministers of State in that Ministry while Mr Mahamuddin is a new entrant.

Mr. M. Kumar Singh, a Minister of State-designate, did not turn up for the ceremony.

Chief Minister Rishang Keishing, his Cabinet colleagues, Congress-I legislators and top officials attended the swearing-in ceremony.

After the ceremony, Mr Keishing said that there "is no threat to his Government. It will be a stable one and will function in the interest of the State".

He said that portfolios would be allocated to the new ministers in a day or two.

CSO: 4220/7728

CONTROVERSY OVER MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER CONTINUES**Request for Dismissal**

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Bombay, September 4—Fifty-five opposition members of both the houses of the Maharashtra legislature met the governor at Raj Bhavan today to demand the dismissal of the chief minister, Mr. A. R. Antulay, for his alleged corruption and misuse of office.

A memorandum presented to the governor, Mr. O. P. Mehra, said the dismissal would restore the confidence of the people in the government and strengthen the foundation of democracy "which has been eroded by the actions of the chief minister."

Mr. G. P. Pradhan, leader of the opposition in the legislative council, later told newsmen that the governor was cordial and responsive during the meeting that lasted an hour.

The memorandum was signed by Mr. Pradhan, Mr. B. B. Dhakne (Janata), Mr. N. D. Patil and Mr. D. B. Patil (PWP), Mr. Hashu Advani and Mr. G. B. Kanitkar (BJP), Mr. Padamsinha Patil and Mr. Datta Meghe (Cong-S), Mr. Lahanu Kom (CPM), Mr. Sudam Deshmukh (CPI) and Mr. Suryakant Dongre (RPI).

The opposition leaders told the governor that there were three main areas in which the chief minister resorted to corruption: the allotment of cement, granting of "no objection" certificates for building on land in excess of the urban ceiling regulations and distribution of quotas for industrial alcohol.

It was alleged that the chief minister used his authority to collect donations.

This was made possible by setting up trusts like the Konkan Unnati Mitra Mandal, the Raigad Zilla Pratishthan, the Shriwardhan Matadar Sangh Pratishthan, the Mhalsa Taluka Trust, the Ambet Pratishthan (all named after the Konkan and places in the Konkan, from where the chief minister hails), the Indira Pratibha Pratishthan and the Sethia Foundation. These were all private trusts contrary to the impression that they were public trusts.

Price of Cement

The chief minister was alleged to have reduced the public sale cement quota from 100,000 tonnes a quarter in 1978 to a mere 21,670 tonnes. As a result, the black-market price of cement had shot up from Rs. 40 to Rs. 125 a bag, twice the level in other parts of the country. The controlled price of a cement bag is Rs. 28.

Mr. Antulay, it was claimed, collected huge sums from builders by issuing them cement permits for large quotas. At the same time, schools, colleges, hospitals and the government housing authority were starved of cement.

The memorandum said about 75 per cent of the alcohol produced in Maharashtra was used for industrial purposes. The users of industrial alcohol yielded to pressure and agreed to donate to the trusts to get their quotas restored. Some others got the quota, though not entitled to it, by giving donations. The parties had to contribute Re. 1 per litre of alcohol.

The chief minister was also alleged to have brought pressure on the sugar co-operative factories to donate crores of rupees to the Indira Pratishtan.

G. K. Reddy's Analysis

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept 4

The Antulay episode figured in Parliament again today in the shape of concerted attempts by the Opposition in both Houses to move privilege motions against the Finance Minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, on the ground that he had misled the members by maintaining that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was not in any way connected with the trust set up by the Maharashtra Chief Minister in her name.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Bakram, and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Shri Lal Yadav, held over the motions, since they needed time to consider the notices before allowing any discussion on them.

The privilege issue arose over the publication of a report, on the basis of a photograph released on October 12, 1980, by the Directorate of Information of the Maharashtra Government, that Mrs. Gandhi had indeed affixed her signature, giving consent to the formation of the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan. The Finance Minister, in his replies to the calling-attention motions in both Houses on Wednesday, had maintained

that the Prime Minister had never agreed to the association of her name with the trust.

The privilege issue was raised in the Lok Sabha by Messrs A. B. Vajpayee (BJP), Madhu Dandavate (Janata), Jyotirmoy Bose (CPI-M) and George Fernandes (Lok Dal) while in the Rajya Sabha, a parallel attempt was made by Messrs L. K. Advani (BJP), A. G. Kulkarni (Cong-U), P. Ramamurthy (CPI-M) and Dinesh Goswami (Ind.) in different forms pressing for the admission of motions against the Finance Minister as well as the writer of the article alleging that Mr. Venkataraman had misled Parliament.

The Finance Minister was present in both the Houses, with the relevant papers, including a copy of the trust deed, ready to defend himself by adhering to his earlier contention that Mrs. Gandhi had not given her consent to the use of her name. But the two Presiding Officers felt that a more appropriate course would be to seek the explanation of the persons concerned before deciding on the admissibility of the privilege motions.

Issue deferred

The issue was thus deferred until next week and both the ruling party and the Opposition were all set to

light out a fresh bottle over the alleged breach of privilege. As far as Mr. Venkataraman was concerned, he did not let go the opportunity to fire his first salvo today itself by remarking in his characteristic good humour, "When a shoe bites a man, he does not bite the shoe."

But the wisecrack did not help to mitigate the ruling party's discomfiture over the Antulay episode. The fact remained that the Centre was trying to shield the Chief Minister by taking a strictly legalistic view of the whole controversy and ignoring the wider implications.

At the higher political level, however, the Prime Minister and her advisers were not ignoring the fact that the fall-out of the Antulay episode was going to sully the party's image badly at a time when the nominated Chief Ministers in several other Congress (I)-ruled States were not crowning themselves with any glory by their equally controversial actions.

It was the case of Mrs. Gandhi having to save herself from her friends than her enemies, since more harm was being done to her leadership by her own colleagues who have made a profession of their loyalty to her than by her opponents who are unable to make any headway with their criticism.

As this odious controversy gathers momentum, it is becoming increasingly clear that the thoughts of an earlier poll in the Congress (I)-ruled States, south of the Vindhyas, are being quietly given up in the wake of the growing realisation that it will be extremely unwise to go to the polls with the present set of Chief Ministers in office.

The current thinking, therefore, is that after the dust has settled over the Antulay affair, the Central leadership should start exploring the possibilities of replacing some of these Chief Ministers to make way for more acceptable persons who could project a better image of the party before facing the people.

But the time factors involved in the contemplated changes are such that there is more than an even chance of the whole exercise being put off again. The Prime Minister will be away from the country for over a month from September 23 to November 14 on her foreign visits. She will be in Delhi for hardly 25 days during the inter-session period, from the conclusion of the current monsoon session to the commencement of the winter session of Parliament.

It is not going to be easy to carry out during this period the twin operation of replacing the controversial Chief

Ministers, who have become an embarrassment to her, and reshuffle the Central Cabinet, which was postponed at the last moment before she left for Nairobi last month after finalising the changes. The focus is shifting again to what Mrs. Gandhi might or might not do in this difficult situation than on just what is going to happen to Mr. Antulay in the wake of his indiscriminate fund collections.

PTI reports:

The privilege motion sought to arraign the Finance Minister as also Mr. Arun Shourie, Executive Editor of "Indian Express" based on a signed article on the front page of that newspaper.

PM's comment

In Bhubaneswar, Mrs. Indira Gandhi said that if there was anything wrong in the collection of funds by Mr. Antulay, "we can look into it later".

When a Reporter wanted to know the latest about the Antulay affair at her airport press conference, Mrs. Gandhi said there was a prolonged discussion on it in Parliament and asked him, "What more do you want?"

When the Reporter told Mrs. Gandhi that it was "embarrassing to her", she shot back, "Why should it be embarrassing to me or anybody? If there is anything wrong in it, we can look into it later".

CSO: 4220/7725

LALDenga INTERVIEWED ON NEW MNF PROPOSALS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Sep 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Silcher, Sept 12 (UNI)—The rebel Mizo National Front has formulated a new package of proposals in a bid to solve the vexed insurgency problem in Mizoram, according to MNF chief Laldenga.

In an interview at Silchar airport today, Mr Laldenga said that some of the points that figured in the Centre's 15-point proposals were not acceptable to the MNF executive council which held an emergency session at its headquarters in the Arakan woods of Burma in the first week of September. He, however, declined to elaborate.

The MNF chief, who presided over the underground executive council meeting, said the new proposals of the MNF 'are a slightly modified version' of the earlier 26-point proposals put forward to the Centre in April. He said he was not satisfied with the Centre's proposal for a Nagaland type of statehood for the Union Territory.

He, however, said that he would not press for a greater Mizoram that envisages integrating other Mizo inhabited areas contiguous to Mizoram.

On his return journey from MNF headquarters, Mr Laldenga was accompanied by his two Ministers Mr Thankima and Mr Rual Chhira and his wife and father-in-law. They flew to Silchar airport by a IAF chopper from Parva—a border village of Mizoram—in the afternoon. Later the party flew to Calcutta by an Indian Airlines flight on way to Delhi.

He said that he would meet Prime Minister Indira Gandhi next week to present the new MNF proposals.

Mr Laldenga had left for the Arakanese headquarters of MNF on 26 August.

CSO: 4220/7754

MINING MINISTER REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Sep 81 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, September 10 (UNI)--The government has decided once again to canalise the import of pig iron, the minister for steel and mines, Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, told the consultative committee of Parliament members attached to his ministry here today.

The minister said that though pig iron had been on open general licence for the last two years, not much of its imports had taken place because of the difference in the landed costs of the imported material and the price of the indigenous variety.

He said the matter about exemption of import duty on pig iron was taken up with the finance ministry and to facilitate a decision in this regard the import of this item had been canalised since September 4 last.

Mr. Mukherjee also informed the committee that billets and re-rollable bars and rods, including wire-rods, hot rolled coils above 5 mm thickness and cold rolled coils and sheets, had been taken out of the regulated distribution system of the joint plant committee. In the case of pig iron, instead of the average of three years as the basis for calculating entitlement, it would now be the best year's takeoff in the last five years or 20 per cent of the capacity, whichever was higher.

Answering a question about the disposal of iron ore concentrate, the minister said two contract documents--one for the construction of the Mangalore pellet plant and another for the sale of about three million tonnes of ore per year--had already been signed with the Rumanian government. He said the plant was scheduled to become operational in 1984.

Mr. Mukherjee said negotiations for the sale of pellets had reached an advanced stage with some countries like Bahrain, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Mukherjee said encouraged by the rising trend of steel production in the integrated steel plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited the government had raised the target of ingot steel, saleable steel and pig iron for 1981-82 to 8.01 million tonnes, 6.3 million tonnes and 1.56 million tonnes, respectively. The original targets for these items were 7.2 million tonnes, 5.7 million tonnes, and 1.4 million tonnes, respectively.

SOVIET DENIAL OF OFFER TO PAKISTAN ACCEPTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Sep 81 p 18

[Text] New Delhi, September 4 (UNI)--The external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, said today that the Soviet Union had denied reports of having offered a nuclear reactor to Pakistan and added that India had no reason to disbelieve the "official" contradiction.

Replying to Mr. Jaswant Singh (BJP) in the Rajya Sabha, he said the government had seen press reports originating from Pakistan. "We have been told officially by the USSR that there is no truth in these reports," he added.

Mr. Singh drew the minister's attention to his reply which, he said, spoke only of the Soviet denial. He wanted to know what the government's own information in this regard was.

Mr. Rao explained that he had placed before the house the available information. Some press reports (suggesting the Soviet offer of a nuclear reactor to Pakistan) had appeared and the other side (the USSR) had categorically denied them. "This is all I could say at this moment," the minister added.

When Mr. Singh insisted on precise information the government had on the matter, Mr. Rao remarked, "The information would not be available in such exactitude so I stop at that...."

Mr. Singh argued that Mr. Rao had not denied the existence of the Soviet offer to Pakistan. He wanted to know whether the government had accepted the Soviet statement.

Mr. Singh claimed that the Prime Minister, in reply to one of his questions, did not deny such a possibility.

CSO: 4220/7725

'DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT' RAISED TO 'CONFRONTATION' LEVEL

Washington Correspondent's Report

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Sep 81 p 9

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 3--A diplomatic incident--that has been raised to the level of a limited confrontation--is rather indicative of the techniques that might be employed from time-to-time in the handling of strained Indo-U.S. relations.

On July 28, the Indian Ambassador, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, conveyed to Mr. Nicholas Veliotis, a senior State Department official, the Government of India's decision to reject the appointment of Mr. George Griffin as Political Counsellor in the U.S. embassy in New Delhi.

The State Department--as if pouncing on the opportunity--recorded surprise, characterised the decision as "most unwarranted," insinuated a connection with an alleged Soviet "disinformation campaign" against U.S. foreign policy, and announced retaliatory or "reciprocal" action, blocking the assignment of Mr. T. R. Prabhakar Menon to succeed Mr. G. Parathasarathy as Political Counsellor in Washington.

In choosing and then insisting upon Mr. Griffin for the third-ranking slot in the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, Washington was driving what appeared at the surface to be diplomatic indelicacy to a point that will be regarded in India as indistinguishable from political arrogance.

In fact, in its communication the Government of India suggested to the U.S. that in the light of the information available with the Indian (intelligence as well as public) sources, the choice of the gentleman in question, triggering public controversy, could not be good for bilateral relations.

The real objection: On the other hand, the U.S. raised the questions: Since the assignment of Mr. Griffin was known to New Delhi as early as March or April, why did not the Government of India give a hint of its objections before July 28?

And since the Indian Government has been quite aware of Mr. Griffin's work in Calcutta in the midst of events leading to the establishment of Bangladesh

independence, is it not the case that the real objection has more to do with the gentleman's alleged role in Afghanistan?

In other words, where exactly does the Indian objection begin, and the Soviet "disinformation campaign" end.

In a response sprung on the public as suddenly as Ambassador Narayanan conveyed New Delhi's decision to it, the U.S. administration appears to have done two kinds of things to refuse to let the business subside and, clearly, to get mileage out of it.

First, it determined there was a link between official Indian objections and alleged Soviet efforts aimed at a capable American diplomat specialising in South Asian affairs. Secondly, it decided on "retaliatory" action to block the posting in Washington of Mr. Prabhakar Menon, an Indian diplomat who (even according to the U.S. side) was in no way and at any stage in his career involved in any comparable controversy.

Then, armed with a 'fact sheet' of carefully edited details about the business and adjectives suggesting an aggrieved and even annoyed status, it resorted to a leak to the home media.

Political message: The political message at this juncture is presented by the State Department thus: "That this action was taken at a time when Mr. Griffin has been a target of a Soviet disinformation campaign makes it particularly regrettable."

And it seems no simple coincidence that the message is being promoted at a time when American Congressmen and the media are referring more and more frequently to India's "close alignment" with the Soviet Union, usually in the context of discussing military and "security" ties between the U.S. and the Zia regime.

Prominent sections of the American media have also characterised the blocking of the appointment of a foreign diplomat at the level of Mr. Griffin as "unprecedented."

What their reconstruction of facts has neglected to point out is that the dossier available on Mr. Griffin's past and present with the Indian sources, but especially with hard-nosed American researchers is too serious a matter for diplomatic ploys, or 'tit-for-tat' propaganda fusillades.

It is for the Government of India to explain why Mr. Griffin--whose background was known and who had no diplomatic business in the country--was allowed an extraordinary "courtesy" in 1980-81 in carrying out his activities hostile to a friendly country, and also when and how exactly the objections to his posting in New Delhi were formed.

So far as public opinion is concerned, it is not particularly important (and not easy) to determine whether the gentleman is a CIA operative. He might well not be one. The real point of interest should be the nature of his clandestine

political work both in Bangladesh and Afghanistan, his undisputed intelligence background in the State Department, the insistence of the Reagan Administration on his assignment to New Delhi at this point, and the political mileage sought to be got out of the belated Indian objection.

'TIMES OF INDIA' Editorial

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Sep 81 p 8

[Editorial: "A Needless Fuss"]

[Text] Indo-U.S. relations could have clearly done without the fuss that the two sides have made over the appointment of relatively junior diplomats. It can perhaps be argued that the unfortunate controversy has erupted precisely because the relations are already under stress owing to the U.S. decision to rearm Pakistan and the security problems for this country that this has created. But New Delhi has been anxious to save its ties with Washington from avoidable damage. Surely this must be known to the Reagan administration, especially after Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick's visit to this country and talks with Mrs. Gandhi. Why, then, has the State Department chosen to blow up into a public row what, at worst, was a minor irritation of a kind that friendly countries usually sort out quickly behind the scenes? The timing of the contretemps is also intriguing. It was a good three months ago that New Delhi first informed Washington of its inability to accept as political counsellor in the U.S. embassy Mr. George Griffin who had earlier worked in the U.S. consulate-general in Calcutta, done a number of postings in other parts of the sub-continent and, at the time of his proposed transfer to this country, was the number two man in the truncated U.S. embassy in Kabul. Even the U.S. request for a reconsideration of the decision was turned down by South Block a month later. Thereupon, the State Department, acting on the doctrine of reciprocity, declined to agree to Mr. Prabhakar Menon's appointment as political counsellor in the Indian embassy in Washington.

The score was thus even and this should have been the end of the affair. But it has not been. Washington has chosen not only to make the issue public but also to protest in rather strong terms. Judging by the propaganda blast from Washington, the U.S. administration has convinced itself that New Delhi objected to Mr. Griffin's appointment because of Soviet disinformation. (Soviet media accused him of being a CIA agent and even of being involved in the alleged attempt to sabotage the Prime Minister's plane.) The official spokesman of the external affairs ministry has repudiated this and pointed out that New Delhi has made up its mind on a careful consideration of Mr. Griffin's past activities in the sub-continent. Even so, South Block cannot be congratulated on its handling of the issue. Mr. Griffin may well have a CIA connection. But are not many other CIA men already working in the U.S. embassy, just as the Soviet embassy has its quota of KGB men? A little more sophistication on New Delhi's part could perhaps have averted the present unpleasantness. But there is no point crying over spilt milk. Unfortunately, what has been done already cannot be undone. But there is no reason why the bitterness over the unhappy incident should be allowed to increase. Indeed, it is time the two sides treat the issue as closed and not allow it to sour their relations further.

CSO: 4220/7724

U.S., PRC, DACCA LINKS WITH PAKISTAN DISCUSSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, September 3--The government had noted increasing co-operation among the U.S., China, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the field of defence though it did not know of any formal alliance among these countries, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, external affairs minister, informed the Lok Sabha today.

All developments "relevant to India's security are kept under constant review," the minister assured Mr. Jagpal Singh in a written reply to his question about what steps the government proposed to take "to weaken this alliance."

"All measures are being taken to ensure full defence preparedness taking into account the evolving situation," Mr. Rao added.

He also confirmed reports gathered by the member that China had agreed to supply "certain categories" of military equipment to Bangladesh.

Quoting Pakistani press reports, Mr. Rao said that Pakistan had requested the U.S. government for supplies of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, aircraft, helicopters and anti-tank missiles. "The exact quantity of military equipment to be supplied to Pakistan is still under negotiations," he said.

In written replies to other questions, the minister informed the house that foreign countries were in illegal occupation of 21,680 square miles of Indian territory. China was in occupation of 14,500 square miles in the Ladhak region and Pakistan of 5,180 square miles in Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, an area of 2,000 square miles of Indian territory had been given over by Pakistan to China through an "illegal agreement" between the two countries.

The government's policy, the external affairs minister said, was to settle this issue "through peaceful bilateral negotiations."

The boundary question figured in the talks held recently with the Chinese foreign minister in Delhi. The Chinese side acknowledged that the border was a major problem between India and China. It accepted India's basic proposition that progress in relations between the two countries could not be completed as the boundary question remained unresolved.

CSO: 4220/7720

AKALI DAL ACCUSED OF WORKING AGAINST SIKHS .

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] Jullundur, Sept. 5 (UNI)--Punjab Pradesh Congress-I general secretary Basant Singh, MLA, today charged the Akali Dal for working against the interests of the Sikh community and the country as a whole.

Talking to newsmen here, he said the Akali Dal was trying to divide the Punjabis on communal lines. He said the call to Sikhs to launch "dharm yudh" and reach Delhi were a pointer to the direction in which the Akalis were moving.

Mr Basant Singh who was recently appointed general secretary of the PCC-I was on a tour of Jullundur and Gurdaspur districts.

He said the Sikhs had never suffered the type of humiliations which they were made to suffer during the Janata regime when Akalis shared power at the Centre. Reiterating the charge that Sikhs were not getting their due, he said the Sikhs occupied most prestigious political, and administrative positions. He said the Sikhs never enjoyed such high positions which they were given during the rule of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Mr Basant Singh dubbed the demand for ban on tobacco in Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib resolution, holy city status to Amritsar and assertions of "Sikhs are a nation" as a reflection on the "sick mind" of the Akali leadership. He said it was strange that whenever the Akalis found themselves away from the seat of power they raised a hue and cry about "dharam" being in danger.

There was enthusiasm among the Congress-I workers since the PCC-I had been reconstituted under the presidentship of Sarla Prashar, he added. He disclosed that the PCC-I president had written letters to those Congress-I leaders who were given party tickets during the last Assembly election but had lost. He said these leaders who were feeling ignored had been asked to work wholeheartedly in their constituencies.

CSO: 4220/7735

ANALYST NOTES SIGNS OF POOR INDO-U.S. RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept 5.

Indo-American relations, which showed some signs of improvement during the Carter Presidency, are now heading for another spell of mutual recrimination, with the Reagan Administration behaving as though India was not relevant to the pursuit of U.S. policies in South and South-West Asia.

It is a sad reflection of this strained relationship that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, will be avoiding even a technical stop-over in the U.S. on her way to Cancun (Mexico) next month for the North-South summit conference.

Not even refuelling halt: The chartered Air India plane flying her to Mexico will be making an over-night stop-over in Canada and over-flying U.S. territory the next day on its way to Cancun. She will be avoiding even a refuelling halt in the U.S. on her return journey, stopping over in London for a day of rest before resuming the flight to Delhi.

The earlier idea of her addressing the U.N. General Assembly has been given up to avoid a halt in New York for this purpose.

There were no indications from the U.S. side whether any senior member of the Reagan Administration, like the Secretary of State, Gen. Alexander Haig, would like to meet her in New York, if the President himself did not find it possible to make a special exception of inviting her to Washington, when some 20 other heads of Government would be passing through the U.S. on their way to the Cancun conference.

But Mrs. Gandhi will be meeting President Reagan at Cancun during the North-South conference. The permanent representative of the U.S. to the United Nations, Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, conveyed a personal message to this effect from Mr. Reagan during her recent visit to Delhi.

There are no active moves from either side for resuming the nuclear dialogue soon to work out the modalities for the termination of the Tarpur agreement. The last round of talks in Delhi made no headway at all in evolving a mutually acceptable approach to the abrogation of the agreement.

Warships keep off: The U.S. is going ahead with its plans to rearm Pakistan ignoring Indian protests, although the U.S. Congress has not yet cleared the three billion dollar aid package. The soured relationship has reached such a stage that no U.S. warships are now calling at any Indian ports, since they do not want to answer even routine queries whether these ships are touching Diego Garcia or carrying nuclear weapons.

The Griffin episode is bound to figure in one form or the other during the Congressional hearings later this month on confirmation of the U.S. Ambassador-designate to India, Mr. Harry Barnes.

There is still no valid explanation of why the State Department has chosen to play up the Indian refusal to accept Mr. George Griffin's posting to Delhi, unless the intention is to utilise this controversy for introducing a new element of irritation into Indo-American relations.

Griffin episode: If India did not want him for whatever reason, Mr. Griffin could have been reassigned to some other country without Washington making a big issue of it. The way the State Department has gone about in first pressing for reconsideration and then accusing India of allowing itself to be unduly influenced by Soviet "disinformation" in refusing to agree to the posting of Mr. Griffin has only heightened India's suspicion that the U.S. had some special purpose in assigning him to Delhi.

The Prime Minister has already commented publicly on this episode and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, may have more to say when the issue is raised in Parliament.

Another round in Islamabad: The American Under-Secretary of State, Mr. James Buckley, who negotiated the arms and economic aid package to Pakistan in June, is to visit Islamabad again for another round of talks. Radio Pakistan said this morning quoting a Washington report, Mr. Buckley will leave for Pakistan tomorrow or on Monday. PTI quoted the radio as saying,

The visit would be a follow-up on the one to Islamabad made by Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

During her visit, the American envoy had promised speedier delivery of the sophisticated F-16 fighter aircraft.

CSO: 4220/7734

PRO-KHALISTAN GROUP ACCUSED OF JOURNALIST'S MURDER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Sep 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Murder on the Highway"]

[Text] Even in the present climate of violence in various parts of the country, Lala Jagat Narain's assassination near Ludhiana on the main highway in Punjab comes as a nasty shock. The 82-year-old freedom fighter, politician and journalist was shot in cold blood for patently political reasons. Not since the murder of Mr. Pratap Singh Kairon in 1965 has the state witnessed a comparable outrage. The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Darbara Singh, has confirmed that the three alleged killers of Lala Jagat Narain, now in custody, belong to a group of extremists which he has asked the police to weed out. He has not said so, but it is no secret that the group in question is spearheading the dangerous demand for "Khalistan" and in the process spreading a lot of communal poison and hatred in the state. As proprietor-editor of a newspaper in Jullundur, Lala Jagat Narain had been writing consistently against the concept of a separate "homeland" for the Sikhs and he had been doing so with remarkable restraint in a milieu in which moderation is not much in evidence. This, coupled with the respect he enjoyed in Punjab's public life, perhaps explains why his writings had been annoying the votaries of "Khalistan" even more than much sharper criticism by others. In recent months he had been receiving numerous letters containing the threat which has now been carried out.

The widespread mourning for Lala Jagat Narain is a tribute to his many qualities. But it also indicates a realisation that Punjab's tragedy is much deeper than the snuffing out of a valuable life, deplorable though that is. The truth of the matter is that the forces of bigotry and fanaticism, which use the slogan of "Khalistan" as a rallying point, can no longer be dismissed as a mere lunatic fringe and have got to be countered more effectively than seems to have been the case so far. For instance, one of the three alleged assailants of Lala Jagat Narain, arrested immediately after the crime, is a proclaimed offender in connection with the murder of the Nirankari Baba in Delhi last year. Since he was not exactly in hiding, it remains a mystery why he was not apprehended earlier. Also, of late, the advocates of "Khalistan", including a former minister of Mr. Badal's cabinet, have been publicly declaring that they would happily accept "arms" from the U.S., Canada, China and even Pakistan in pursuit of their goal. Some have even floated the so-called Khalistan currency. The time has therefore come to put an end to such diabolical activity. On the other hand, it is necessary to give short shrift to reckless bigots without adding to tensions between the two

principal communities living in Punjab. The news of Lala Jagat Narain's murder was followed regrettably by attacks on the offices of those Jullundur newspapers which apparently support the "Khalistan" demand. This is precisely the kind of danger to avoid. The situation needs to be handled with a judicious mixture of tact and firmness.

CSO: 4220/7749

INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN ASSAM DISTRICTS REPORTED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 6 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] Shillong, Sept. 5--Groups of the People's Liberation Army are active in some parts of Cachar in Assam instigating people to insurgency. The most disturbed part of the district is Lakhipur, wedged between Manipur in the east and Mizoram in the south. The insurgents, in groups of four and five, are reported to have been entering the area and taking refuge with local tribals.

Recently, a young Manipuri was arrested in the area and a pipegun and six cartridges were recovered from him. Interrogation revealed that he was an active member of the PLA.

The PLA is now playing a pivotal role in indoctrinating the local tribals and instigating them to insurgency. It is now consolidating its bases in Joypur, Harinagar, Banskandi and areas of the Lakhipur assembly constituency by establishing rapport with the tribals.

Some Manipuri youths moving about suspiciously were arrested. They gave vital clues about their modus operandi. They sneak into the district with the cooperation of smugglers in foreign goods. They are reported to hold nocturnal meetings in their hideouts in the inaccessible border terrain of the district to decide their strategy.

Knowledgable sources affirm that the extremists, besides receiving training in the use of arms in the Chittagong and Arakan Hills, are also given guerrilla training somewhere in the jungles of Sylhet district in Bangladesh. There are indications that the insurgents have their hideouts in the Camcherra area at the junction of Mizoram, Tripura and Bangladesh, where they are training the local tribals in the use of arms and explosives.

CSO: 4220/7732

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER ERRATIC MONSOON

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Sep 81 p 8

[Excerpt] The Centre has written to northern States, where the monsoon appears to have withdrawn early, to make adequate power and diesel available to farmers for irrigating kharif crops, reports UNI.

Union Agriculture Ministry sources said although the erratic behaviour of the monsoon was causing concern, the production outlook for 1981-82 at the moment was bright. The ripening kharif crops, of course, needed two more good rains.

In a communication to the Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, Union Agriculture Secretary S. P. Mukherjee conveyed Union Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh's desire that the States should give priority to farmers in the allocation of diesel and electricity.

Efforts should be made to ensure uninterrupted supply of power preferably during fixed hours in the day time.

The foodgrain production target for 1981-82 is 138.5 million tonnes. This included 58 million tonnes of rice, 38 million tonnes wheat and 30 million tonnes coarse grains.

CSO: 4220/7735

HINDU PARLEY RESOLVES TO FIGHT SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 6--An All-India Hindu Solidarity Conference (Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Ekta Sammelan) held here today pledged to dedicate itself to fight out the 'poison' of untouchability and social and religious discrimination against vulnerable sections of society.

Nearly 1,000 representatives of various religious sects and organisations of Hindu society drawn from all parts of the country, who participated in the conference, also resolved to float a non-political "apex platform" to be known as 'Virat Hindu Samaj' (large Hindu society) to achieve the goal.

The 'Virat Hindu Samaj' would strive to inculcate among various sects of Hindus a sense of solidarity and brotherhood.

The conference has been convened at the initiative of Dr. Karan Singh, MP.

Objectives: Other aims and objectives of the Samaj include eradication of the evil of untouchability and emancipation of the downtrodden and backward sections of society.

The Samaj will also evolve ways to guard Hindu society from allurements, terror and use of force against it.

To achieve this goal, the Samaj will train pracheraks, help to bring about reforms in the education system, create public opinion by organising Hindu solidarity conferences and publish literature.

Membership of the Samaj will be restricted only to organisations in agreement with its aims and objectives.

Among those who participated in the conference were Acharya Tulsi (Jain Muni), Mr. Ramgopal Shalwale, Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, Muni Mahapragye, Mr. Prem Chand Gupta, Samatan Dharm Mahasabha, Mr. Hansraj Gupta, former Mayor of Delhi and Mrs. Vijayaraje Scindia, MP.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Karan Singh said the Hindu society had to be rid of the social evils still prevalent despite the best efforts to eradicate them.

Foremost among these evils, he said, was the "poison" of untouchability. He regretted that even today there were streets in some places in South India where cattle was allowed to move about but not Harijans. Such a sorry state of affairs of Hindu society was responsible for mass conversion of Harijans into Islam, he said.

Commotion: There was a bit of commotion at the conference when some Harijan leaders protested that none of their community was sitting on the dais.

Mr. Shiv Narayan Sarsonia, a former MP from Delhi, Mr. Jaikishan Jatav and Mr. Sohanpal Sumnakshar, ex-member of Delhi Municipal Corporation, rose in their seats and almost shouted to make their point.

There was a minor scuffle when volunteers of the conference tried to pacify the Harijan leaders.

Later, they were escorted to the dais and given chairs and were also called to speak.

Mr. Sarsonia made a scathing attack on the 'caste Hindus' and said 'Harijans' had played greater role in the service of Hindu society than anyone else. He wanted the propaganda that Harijans were changing religion for money to be stopped forthwith since it hurt them. What Harijans sought was a rightful place in society, he said.--PTI.

CSO: 4220/7740

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES SELECTION BOARD REORGANIZED

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Sep 81 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 3--The Government has reconstituted the Public Enterprises Selection Board and streamlined the procedures for the appointment of senior executives to provide for greater professionalism in the management of the public sector units.

The new board will be headed by Mr. R. P. Billimoria, a former chairman of the Steel Authority of India, who is now Chairman of the National Textile Corporation. He is a well known authority on higher management.

The other members of the board are Air Chief Marshal I. H. Latif, who has just relinquished charge as Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Dr. S. Varadarajan, Chairman of Engineers India Ltd., Co. S. P. Wahi, Chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Mr. S. M. Ghosh, Secretary of Industrial Development and Mr. P. K. Basu, Director-General of Public Enterprises.

The previous boards functioned as glorified public service commissions recruiting persons not only for the key posts of chairmen and directors, but also the lower management cadres. The new board will concentrate on top level appointments of senior executives, so that the rest of the vacancies as and when they occur could be filled by the respective managements.

Over 60 top posts vacant: There are altogether 169 public sector enterprises set up by the Centre with a total investment of approximately Rs. 15,700 crores. The posts of 63 chief executives and functional directors have been vacant and the new selection board will have to find the right men with the requisite managerial experience to fill them.

The whole emphasis now is on progressively professionalising the higher managements of these public sector enterprises and reducing the direct control and supervision by the Ministries and departments concerned. Though some of these units continue to be on the sick list, the overall performance of the public sector has shown a marked improvement yielding a gross profit of eight per cent on the total investment.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who took the initiative for reconstituting the Public Enterprises Selection Board and streamlining its functions, feels that there is enough scope for further improvement through proper professionalism of the higher managements of these units.

The board has been reconstituted in such a manner that it represents collectively a higher degree of expertise for selecting the right kind of persons for these posts.

Decentralisation in Coal India: The Government is also taking steps to reorganise the management of Coal India which has been the target of considerable criticism. It proposes to introduce greater degree of decentralisation within this mammoth organisation, besides reducing the supervisory role of the Department of Mines.

Another pending decision relates to the proposal for raising the capital outlay from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 50 crores for bringing any industrial unit within the purview of the Monopoly and Trade Practices Commission.

It is also proposed to prevent interlocking by reducing the capital participation and representation on the boards of one company in another from the present one-third level to one-fourth to discourage monopolist influences.

Steps to relax controls: The Government is also arming itself with powers to exempt certain categories of priority industries from the need to secure clearance of MRTP before obtaining permission for expansion. It is part of the parallel steps underway for reducing bureaucratic controls and other regulatory constraints on the private sector for facilitating increased production in selective spheres.

CSO: 4220/7724

PRIVATE SECTOR PERFORMANCE DEEMED CREDITABLE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Sep 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 4.—A study made by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India has revealed that the private sector's financial performance is "remarkably creditable" while the public sector has been incurring heavy losses for the past few years.

The study says that in 1979-80, the private sector experienced a marked improvement in its financial performance in terms of sales and profits. The sales rose by 15.3%, gross profits by 17.3% and retained profits by 35.5%.

The operations and performance of the corporate sector in 1980-81, on the basis of results declared so far, continue to be "generally satisfactory", the study says.

While inflation continued in 1980-81, pushing higher the level of financial operations, industrial output in 1980-81 increased because more infrastructural inputs were available. Hence, profit margins were maintained in the corporate sector as a whole in 1980-81, the study concludes.

The study is based on a sample of the results of 417 companies in all industrial sectors. Despite the good showing by the private sector, the study says that although the operating profits to sales ratio went up in 1979-80, the increase in profitability has not been sufficient to cover the increased financial requirements of capital formation, costs of which have been pushed up by the recurrence of inflation in the year.

A number of industries such as jute, tyres and tubes, electrical lamps and dry cells which had performed marginally in the past few years but had indicated signs of improvement in 1978-79, showed even better results in 1979-80.

Since industrial production as a

whole had declined in 1979-80, it would seem to be a fair conclusion that the growth in sales of 15.3% of the sample companies in 1979-80 reflected chiefly the pressure of a 14.9% increase in costs. This would suggest that the financial results have been inflated by rising costs.

There has been a significant increase in long-term debt whereas recourse to bank borrowings for financing current assets declined in 1979-80. The pay-out ratio (dividends as a percentage of profits after tax), which was around 50% during 1975-76 to 1977-78, dropped to 40% in 1979-80.

Dividends in 1979-80 increased to Rs 189.4 crores compared to Rs 172.5 crores in the previous year. This modest increase was made possible by a faster growth of profits before tax at 19.4% as compared to the provision for tax (14.5%) in the previous year, the slower growth in the latter resulting from increased fixed assets formation.

'SPECTER OF DROUGHT' REPORTED IN BIHAR PLATEAU

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] Ranchi, Sept. 4--After an early promise of good kharif crops, a drought-like situation is prevailing in the major areas of the Chotanagpur plateau in Bihar where rainfall was scanty last month. Green fields of paddy are becoming sere causing concern to farmers.

Forty per cent of the paddy crops already have been damaged and in at least 15 per cent of the farmland transplantation could not be done for want of rain. Although the officials are reluctant to comment on the situation, current estimates indicate a loss of 50 per cent of the yield. Even if there is rain in the coming weeks, the crops which have already been damaged cannot be saved. If there is no rain in the next 15 days, a famine is inevitable.

The sowing is done in two parts. In about 70 per cent of the total arable land seeds are broadcast just before the monsoon. In the remaining 30 per cent low land (don land) paddy is sown by transplantation which needs plenty of water. Due to inadequate rain, transplantation could not be done in vast areas.

In Kurse and Kosha panchayats, paddy transplantation has not been done in 80 per cent of the low land, according to village mukhias. Even where transplantation was completed, the fields are now dry and plants are withering. In the down hills of Kasiadin village about 90 km from here, vast tracts of land, where paddy was transplanted, are parched. The plants are drying. "There is no hope now", a farmer said. A similar situation prevails in Nari Navadih in Kisko panchayat. The block development officer of Kisko said in his office that he had received a memorandum from the villages demanding the area to be declared drought-hit.

The prospects of the remaining land where paddy was broadcast are equally grim. In vast areas, paddy plants have not sprouted due to insufficient water. According to an agriculture officer, there is some hope if it rains in next 10 or 15 days the yield would, however, be better only when urea is used. But the use of fertilizer is beyond the means of most farmers in this region.

In Class I Don land, where water is sufficient and crops are green, insects are damaging the plants. In vast paddy land gall flies are wrecking the plants. In certain areas earmarked by the Agriculture Department, pesticides are given free.

But a spokesman of the Agriculture Department said that due to insufficient water, the use of pesticides had to be restricted. In those areas not covered by the Agriculture Department, where plants are diseased, the villagers cannot afford pesticides. As one mukhia said, it costs Rs 200 to cover an acre. "From where will we get the money," he said.

Adivasis

In Bhakso village, there are 35 families of Adivasis, only five of which still hope to harvest the crops, and the remaining families have lost all hope. The worst situation is in Pakhar and Bundobag villages, situated on the hills bordering Ranchi and Palamau districts. The two small villages are inhabited by primitive tribes known as "Asurs" and "kisans", numbering about 1,300. While Bhadai crops like maize, goda and gundli grown in 15 per cent of the land have by and large been good this year, in the hills maize and goda have been damaged for want of rain. As most of these Adivasis live on coarse grain, loss of Bhadai crops has added to their misery.

CSO: 4220/7726

RAJYA SABHA MEMBERS ASK DISCLOSURE ON IMF LOAN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 81 pp 1, 6

[Text] The Government was on Tuesday accused of bartering away the country's economic sovereignty and freedom of action in negotiating the five billion dollar loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Union Finance Minister R. Venkataraman's assurance in the Rajya Sabha that the Government would not accept any terms which were against the self-respect and interests of the nation did not appease the angry members who charged that the very principle of the IMF demanding 'progress reports' on the fulfilment of its conditions would make the country an economic serf and would mortgage its future and development.

They demanded that the nation and Parliament be taken into confidence on the terms and conditions of the loan, and the issue be discussed at large before the Government commits itself.

Mr Venkataraman rejected the demand, and in turn said the Government ought to be congratulated for negotiating the 'biggest ever loan' from the IMF.

'Time Is Good'

The Minister claimed that the loan was necessary for developmental schemes and it was economic to apply for it at this time when India's credit was good and the ratio between its income from exports and loan repayment promised to come down from last year's 15.1 per cent to about 13 per cent. This, he said, was a good showing as even a 20 per cent ratio was considered to be quite good by international standards.

Mr Venkataraman also denied charges that the rupee was being progressively and effectively devalued and subservience to the IMF conditions would aggravate the situation.

He said the loan had become necessary in view of the steep increase in petroleum prices and the difficult balance of payment situation which followed. He also defended imports as being necessary to the development process.

The Minister was challenged on all points by members. Mr A. G. Kulkarni reminded the Government that as far back as the third five-year plan, it had been

suggested that India achieve a net zero foreign debt. The Constitution also sought limits on foreign debts. Mr Kulkarni said the Government should take hard decisions to tighten imports, curb foreign remittances and do away with subsidies.

Loan Magnitude

CPI leader Indradeep Sinha said the Government was now taking a Rs 5,000 crore IMF loan and had already taken a Rs 3,000 crore loan from Aid-India. Loans from the World Bank and other countries have also been taken and now even the private sector had been allowed to seek credit from the international market. In one year, the country will take foreign credit to the tune of Rs 10,000 crores in addition to the outstanding loans totalling about Rs 15,000 crores. "How are we going to repay", Mr Sinha asked.

He said the IMF like a Shylock wanted progress reports on the fulfilment of their conditions. If India had to get its schemes approved by them, "we will have to become a subservient Government". 'We are mortgaging our freedom of action, we are mortgaging our future'.

Mr Sinha pointed out that foreign loans were being sought for even trivial schemes. The Karnataka Government with Central concurrence had sought loans for small irrigation schemes which obviously had no foreign earning potential. Such steps took the country to economic mortgage.

Mr Sinha questioned the Minister's statement that there would be no devaluation. He also did not agree that the rise in petroleum prices made the loan imperative. The Government he said, should have taken measures to cut dependence on oil. What was the need to phase out coal locomotives? Why was the emphasis on diesel pump sets instead of developing available water resources by building canals? he asked.

Mr P. Ramamurthi (CPI-M) saw in the loan an attempt at ushering in neo-colonialism in the country posing a threat to its independence.

Mr S. R. Bagaitkar (LD) said the proposed loan would render a blow to 'our objective of economic self-reliance'.

Mr S. C. Kha (Janata) objected to the preconditions envisaged in the IMF deal, suggesting restructuring of economy. Mr N. N. Pandey (Cong-I) wanted the Parliament taken into confidence on loan terms.

Mr Shahabuddin (Janata) questioned the wisdom of allowing such a massive indebtedness to a single source.

Mr G. C. Bhattacharya (DSP) feared political destabilisation in the country in the wake of the massive foreign loan. Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP), Mr Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav (LD), Mr S. W. Dhabe (Cong-S), Mr Ramakrishna (AIADMK) and Mr H. K. Mallick (Janata) also participated in the discussion.

NEW CHIEF OF AIR STAFF INTERVIEWED

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Sep 81 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 6--The impending acquisition of the American-built F-16 aircraft by Pakistan has made it imperative for India to look for means to deal with this looming threat.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, the new Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, said on Sunday that India was examining various proposals relating to defence equipment capable of matching the fighting capabilities of the F-16.

The Air Chief was of the opinion that if Pakistan acquired the F-16 aircraft by the end of this year or early next year, India would have to find the necessary wherewithal to accelerate the strengthening of the Air Force in critical areas.

He did not rule out the possibility of acquiring an interceptor capable of meeting the challenge of F-16.

It had been the constant effort of the Government and the Air Force to keep every new development in the region under review and take necessary measures to redress any adverse technological imbalances between "our Air Force and the Air Forces of our neighbouring countries."

Imbalances: However, temporary imbalances between the defence forces could not be ruled out. "No two countries in the world, however advanced can remain evenly matched in the strength of their armed forces and combat technologies at every point of time," he said.

He was proud to be a fighter-pilot of one of the world's best Air Force and now its overall commander. "It is the quality of our men and the kind of training imparted to them and constant attention to development of tactics that have given us the confidence to tackle the problem arising out of the introduction of the American F-16 in this region," Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh said.

To emphasize his point further, the Air Chief said it was always the machine which provided the superiority in its strike capability, but more important was the man behind the machine.

Replying to a question, the new Air Chief said one effective way of dealing with the F-16 could be with greater numbers, better tactics and updating of fighting equipment. "We keep these points always before us while planning the present and future requirements of the country's defence," the Air Chief Marshal said.

PTI reports from Islamabad:

The U.S. has agreed to supply Pakistan some items of military hardware excluding F-16 aircraft of its own stock.

F-16 in short supply: In a despatch from Washington the Pakistan Press International news agency said a State Department official had told its correspondent that the U.S. public opinion would not understand the transfer to another country items in short supply domestically.

These items included F-16 aircraft--of which the U.S. Air Force needed another 1,000 to reach its prescribed strength--and just a couple of other items, the official said.

However, there were scores of other items about which there was no problem and the U.S. had agreed to share them with Pakistan, he said.

The official, the agency said, reaffirmed the U.S. Administration's commitment to sell Pakistan the F-16s it wanted but cautioned against some opposition on the "Hill" to the sale of this aircraft to Pakistan.

CSO: 4220/7740

OPPOSITION CONCERNED OVER AIRSTRIP NEAR BORDER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday expressed concern over the airstrip constructed for Mantalai Ashram, a part of the Aparna Ashram of Dharendra Brahmachari in Jammu, which they felt posed a threat to the country's security as it was in the proximity of border with Pakistan in a sensitive region.

Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation A. P. Sharma tried, however, to allay their fears by stating that although no permission was required for construction of private airstrips, in this specific instance permission was sought and granted by the Air Headquarters.

Construction of the airstrip did not pose any threat to the security of the country and foreigners visiting the Aparna Ashram were cleared by security, he added.

He further informed that he had no knowledge of efforts to enlarge the airstrip and the Defence Ministry was also unaware of it either.

As for the permission given by the Air Headquarters, he clarified in reply to a spate of queries by several members including Syed Shahabuddin (J), that the Air Headquarters had laid down three conditions: (a) flying should strictly adhere to visual flight rules, (b) the aircraft must carry two way radio communication equipment and (c) prior permission from the Udhampur control tower must be obtained.

Mr J. P. Mathur (BJ) showed a photograph of a very high tower with powerful wireless sets installed at the Aparna Ashram and alleged this was done illegally. Foreigners visiting the Ashram were engaged in espionage activities, he charged.

Mr H. S. Bhabhra (BJP) said the Brahmachari was constructing another airstrip at Katra in Jammu after demolishing Harijan houses and without consent of the municipal corporation.

At one stage when tempers ran high and Mr Kalpnath Rai trying to defend the Brahmachari shouted at the Chair, Chairman M. Hidayatullah was heard saying "I would expect the members to address the Chair more gently and not show their temper.

The Minister informed the House that work on the Jammu airport was going on and will be completed by the end of November to enable the Boeings to land there.

INDIAN EXPERTS PESSIMISTIC OVER U.S. ARMS DEAL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] Washington, Sept. 9--India, while objecting vigorously to a new U.S. arms credit programme for Pakistan, for almost a year now has had pending an arms purchase programme of its own with the USA.

But while this programme was initiated by India and would have been sizeable--one-third-billion dollars at last year's prices and now considerably higher--visiting Indian military experts (who requested anonymity) say the deal now never will come off.

They give as the main reason for this the U.S. insistence that spare parts for arms to be purchased would be dispensed as the U.S. saw fit, not necessarily as India found need. Such a condition, these experts say, would be "unacceptable".

Other reasons given for India's U.S. arms purchase being in indefinite limbo are: the U.S. insistence on payment in advance with actual delivery stretched out for as long as seven years; the arms sales contract being subject to unilateral cancellation by the U.S. after payment had been made, with reimbursement possible only if the U.S. Congress decided to approve appropriate legislation; the uneven delivery schedule in which meaningful groupings of the arms would be apportioned at the USA's own discretion; the refusal of the USA to provide India with the license to manufacture these arms and the U.S. insistence that, unlike the \$1.75-billion arms programme for Pakistan, there would be no concessional credits for India--it must be all cash in advance.

India has not yet formally rejected the U.S. arms programme and still has regrets that its terms make it unacceptable. India's regrets, it is reported, are because the U.S. arms it seeks are both cheaper and better than comparable weapons elsewhere.

The arms sought fall into two groups: (1) \$300 million (at last fall's prices, now inflated) for 230 light-weight long-range, highly-accurate, towed M-198 howitzers, which can be airlifted to replace antiquated British and Soviet designed weapons in India's mountain divisions; and (2) \$39 to \$40 million (also at last fall's prices) for Tubelaunched, Optically-guided, Wire-controlled missiles (tows)--60 launchers and about 3,500 actual missiles--to replace a 20-year-old anti-tank weapon which has been manufactured under French license in Bangalore.

These Indian purchases would have been the first from the U.S. arms market in more than 16 years, and by far the biggest order ever contemplated. India originally requested that both weapons be demonstrated on Indian soil, which they were. And then, last October, the Defence Secretary, Mr K. P. S. Menon, led a high-level military delegation here for what U.S. officials first understood would be final negotiations. In anticipation of this, the required notification of the U.S. Congress had been made for India's purchase of the TOWs, a "letter of offer" had been readied, and binding contracts had been drawn up with the suppliers. The required notification of the U.S. Congress also had been made regarding the M-198 howitzers.

But, to the surprise of U.S. officials, the secretary, Mr Menon, confined his visit to "discussions" and, after returning to Delhi, started sending back queries for information which, for the most part, U.S. officials said already had been supplied.

Now some U.S. officials suspect the inaction of the arms purchase is caused not so much by the specified objections given by the visiting Indian defence experts, but by foreign policy considerations--i.e., the increased souring of Indo-American relations over the massive U.S. arms programme proposed for Pakistan; the failure of the USA to continue supplying enriched uranium to the Indian nuclear power plant at Tarapur; and the differing views on how to deal with the Soviets in their military occupation of Afghanistan.

CSO: 4220/7748

NEED TO OPPOSE F-16'S WITH NEW PLANES STRESSED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 3—What is the F-16 aircraft which Pakistan is to acquire from the U.S.A.? It is a single seater, single-engined aircraft which could carry as much bomb load, with some fuel reduced of course, as a twin-engined canbeera but fly almost twice as fast.

It can carry 6,894 kg of bomb load and they can be laser guided onto the target without the help of any other airborne or ground tracking station.

Besides, it has a radar jammer, which would clutter up the tracking radarscopes below, making it very difficult for the opposing side to detect its intrusion and use any kind of radar actuated surface-to-air missiles against it. That is but one aspect of sophistication.

The F-16 can perform formidably in air-to-air combat. It has a multi-barrel 20 mm cannon with a capacity to carry 500 rounds of ammunition. It can also carry up to six heat-seeking sidewinder missiles.

The aircraft is fully equipped to launch electro-optical missiles like the Sparrow and the Sky Flash air-to-air missiles and the maverick air-to-surface missile.

The Sky Flash missile has been tested under conditions where radar was being jammed and it scored partial success. It has hit drone targets as low as 150 meters above the ground without the ground returns affecting its radar-homing devices. Matching its air combat armanent is its performance, with its accuracy and destructive capability.

In any air combat situation what is of prime importance is the turning radii of the two opposing aircraft engaged in the fight. An aircraft which can turn inside the other has always a better chance of shooting it down. In the F-16 it is the onboard flight control computer which ensures that at any given speed and height the aircraft executes a maximum rate turn without flicking or getting into a high speed stall. Therefore, in a battle of sustained tight turns the chances of the F-16 pilot making a mistake are minimized.

To counter such a menacing aircraft India will have to do much more than it has so far, according to defence experts. It would be wrong to equate India's purchases of Jaguars and MIG-23A with Pakistan's acquisition of the F-16. What is overlooked by those who subscribe to this view is that the Jaguar and the Model of the MIG-23 purchased by India are exclusively for ground attack.

Though these two aircraft may be able to carry air-to-air missiles, they would be no match in the air combat for an aeroplane of the F-16 variety. Another factor which should be taken into account is that India not only has to take care of its border with Pakistan but the long mountainous one with China, with which relations have only now started to thaw.

In building up its ground strike capability India has not only to consider its western border, but the support the Indian Air Force would be able to give to the ground troops through interdiction and close support. Punch and range, therefore, are necessary for any aircraft that IAF may buy for ground strike.

The gap in India's air defence has now been filled up with the MIG-23, but only with its ground strike version. Much more than this is needed, the experts say.

The urgency to equip the Air Force with MIG-25 and Mirage 2000, in addition to the Jaguars would be imperative, the experts say. They argue that MIG-25, together with the Jaguars and Mirage 2000, could somewhat restore the balance. MIG-25, particularly with their Mach III speed could be an asset in future combats. Some of these have already been put into service, though, for the present only in a reconnaissance role.

Reconnaissance is a necessary operation and this job until now was being performed by the outdated Canberra photo reconnaissance aircraft. But these have become obsolete and have been phased out. This photo reconnaissance capability has been made up with the single squadron of MIG-25--the high altitude reconnaissance version. This aircraft, though capable of Mach III speed, is now completely unarmed and it is its high speed which will enable it to get away from enemy action whether from the ground or air. This aircraft, according to experts, could serve well in an attacking role as well.

CSO: 4220/7722

ARMY NEED FOR HELICOPTERS IN BATTLE EXAMINED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Sep 81 p 8

[Article by G. C. Katoch]

[Text] Describing the tussle over a Helicopter Wing for the Indian Army, G. C. Katoch stresses the crucial role of tank battles in a future war and the efficacy of helicopters as anti-tank weapons. He finds a strong case for the Army acquiring full control over the helicopters meant for its use, despite claims to the contrary by the Air Force. What is needed is not supportive action by helicopters but total involvement.

Mr Katoch was formerly Financial Adviser to the Defence Services.

A MAJOR proposal of Army Headquarters, pending with the Government since 1968, relates to the raising of the Army Aviation Corps. The proposal gathered dust for nearly a decade until the late General Raina revived it early in 1977. The Cabinet Secretary, the Defence Secretary and the Secretary to the Prime Minister then deliberated for a whole year before recommending creation of a separate Helicopter Wing for the Army.

It was said that General Raina's forceful advocacy had virtually rammed the proposal through. But Air Chief Marshal Moo'gaonkar, then Chief of Air Staff, vehemently declared that it could be implemented only "over my dead body". Rumour had it that Mr Jagjivan Ram stalled approval of the Helicopter Wing as a quid pro quo for the Air Chief's support for the Jaxuar deal. While this may have only reflected the political mood of the time, the Government found it convenient not to take a decision then, or thereafter. The issue has gene-

rated much inter-Service steam, reminiscent of the days when transfer of the Constellations to the Navy was being debated. Well-meaning people advise you "not to touch this sensitive subject". Yet the decision on it could affect the outcome of a future war.

POTENT WEAPON

What the Army wants is to take over and fly all helicopters meant for its own tasks. At present these are operated by the IAF as part of its fleet. The Army's case is that the attack helicopter is the most potent anti-tank weapon in modern warfare and its utilization must be integrated with mechanized infantry, armour and heliborne troops. It is the Army which has to bear the brunt of the land battle, which in the western sector mostly means tank battle. The Army formation commander must, therefore, have full control of all inputs, including helicopters bearing on the land battle. Air Force pilots, nurtured in a different service environment and lacking intimate know-

ledge of the army organization, tactical concepts and so on, can hardly function as an integral part of the team.

The vertical envelopment concept also requires great flexibility in the use of heliborne troops, which the present division of command and control between the two Services does not ensure. Moreover, since the helicopters are meant primarily for Army tasks, should they not form part of the Army on the major user principle, already accepted in the case of the Navy's air arm?

In fact, about 85% of the IAF's helicopter fleet is sanctioned wholly for Army tasks. At stake is roughly one-fourth of the total combat aircraft strength. Predictably, the Air Force is not enthused over the idea that the best way to win a future war is by handing over a chunk of its assets to another Service. Its experts point out that flying modern helicopters requires specialized skills which artillery or armoured corps officers cannot be expected to acquire as a sort of extra-curricular activity. It is claimed that

IAF pilots are quite conversant with Army tactics and procedures and that nobody has ever complained of their messing up Army tasks. Helicopter operations need close coordination with fighter activity and the offensive support they give to ground troops is less complex than that provided by supersonic jets.

Against the major user principle invoked by the Army, the Air Force relies on the principle that all air activity must be controlled and coordinated by one Service. The Army, it is said, is overstretching the unified command and quick reaction concepts. Its proposal, besides, cannot but lead to the setting up of parallel facilities for training and maintenance. To put a colourful cap on it all, it is whispered that what really irks the Army is the inability of its top brass to use helicopters freely: how this or that General wanted a helicopter to be laid on for taking him from Pathankot railhead or Srinagar airfield to his residence—a perk which the IAF denies to its own Air Marshals.

It is easy to lose one's way in this jungle of claims and counterclaims. The Defence Ministry knows that helicopters as a class, though not as expensive as fighters and bombers, are yet high-technology aircraft armed with guns, rockets, missiles, and very vulnerable in battle. It is loth to disturb the status quo for fear of excessive helicopter mortality in operations. It could also be inhibited by the probable price tag. The army utilizes an AOP pilot on average for less than half the period that the Air Force pilots serve after training. This is why the pilot-intake to aircraft-held ratio is a wasteful 1:5 for the Army, compared with 1:10 in the Air Force (The Navy comes a bad third with its ratio of roughly 1:3).

PILOT INTAKE

For the additional pilot intake the direct training costs alone will be an estimated Rs 15 crores per year. Large numbers of technicians and support staff will also have to be trained. The Navy example shows that, regardless of assurances given at whatever level, separate training and maintenance infrastructures

do get built up in course of time. This means sheer waste of resources. Even so, a few crores more in a budget of the order of Rs 4,000 crores should not cause bureaucratic insomnia, though an unwillingness to be seen taking sides might. The end result is still indecision.

If practice in other countries is any guide, many major armies, including those of the NATO countries, the USA and Pakistan, have their own aviation corps. Many others do not, notable among them being the USSR and Israel, both with track record in tank battles. But their armed forces are so organized that an independent air force does not exist as such. As regards the control of air space, modern

concepts seem to favour horizontal separation, the army being left with air space below 250 feet to fly its helicopters.

It stands to reason that the Army formation commander should have full operational control of all the "resources" employed in the land battle, including helicopters. Indeed, the Air Force apparently recognizes this since a counter-proposal is said to have been made by them some years ago that a separate Light Support Squadron to be flown by IAF pilots should be formed for Army needs and placed at the disposal of the Corps Commander in the western sector. The catch was that the squadron would comprise not only Army helicopters but also the AOP aircraft now flown by Army pilots.

One is tempted to concede that flying sophisticated helicopters needs the type of skill that can best be provided by the IAF. However, the specialization argument turns out on closer scrutiny to be double-edged, the Army wielding the sharper edge. In the all-arms team concept of tank warfare, effective use of attack helicopters involves two things: hazardous flying and understanding the battle. Both are equally important. It necessitates contour and NOE ("nap of the earth") flying, which the Air Force code would rule out as non-essential.

FLYING TANK

Those who have watched tank battle exercise abroad would appreciate that if the helicopter's high-kill potential and extreme

flexibility are to be exploited with a fair chance of survival, it has to be operated practically as a flying tank just a few feet above ground. There has to be close coordination with the artillery and other ground forces. Expert understanding of the land battle as it develops is crucial since radio silence has to be maintained and the pilot must react on his own. This presupposes a deep sense of involvement and constant training in simulated environments. This kind of specialized skill and attitude can hardly be bred in the "army task" culture of the IAF.

The serious objective behind the Army's demand of helicopters is not supportive action so much as participation; not cooperation but integration. Helicopters must therefore become, like armour, a part of the Army—controlled, commanded and piloted by Army officers. Initial pilot training and maintenance must, however, continue to be the responsibility of the IAF and the Government must not succumb as it did in the case of the Navy, to pressures to duplicate these facilities.

To add punch to its own aviation corps, the Pakistan army has since last year started importing Huey-Cobra helicopters fitted with Tow missiles. These are specially designed for the attack role. Likewise, their armour is being strengthened with the induction of M-60 tanks and otherwise as part of the U.S. aid package. Tank battles in the next round (and we have to be prepared for it) are thus likely to be fierce, massive and crucial. This lends urgency to softening of postures and settling the controversy over the Helicopter Wing. The Army has been anxiously waiting for the Government to make up its mind. With new Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff in position, and the Prime Minister continuing to hold the Defence portfolio, the odds seem favourable.

ASSAM MP CONDEMNS WAVE OF ARRESTS IN STATE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] Mr Ajit Kumar Sharma, a Rajya Sabha member from Assam on Tuesday condemned what he called the new wave of arrests of editors, teachers and students in the State since 15 August and demanded their immediate release, reports UNI.

In a statement in Delhi, he alleged that the arrests have been made on false and fabricated grounds by police in league with some anti-national elements who are bent upon damaging the prevailing peaceful atmosphere and preventing a satisfactory settlement of the foreigners issue.

"The arrest of the editor and the printer of the daily JANAMBHUMI of Jorhat on the Independence Day is an instance of an attack on the press and the freedom of the people. The only offence of the editor was that he published news of protest meetings against police atrocities at different places", the statement says.

It further says "the continued midnight arrests of several teachers and students by the CBI on the plea of investigation and bringing some of them to Delhi for putting them before the lie-detector have proved beyond doubt that all these atrocities upon the innocent people are nothing but a planned device to create an atmosphere of terror and to give protection to the real culprits instead of apprehending them. The fact is that as soon as any one of the real culprits is apprehended the anti-national role of some of the ministerial leaders and top police officials will be exposed". The statement adds "Assam being under residential rule at present the Central Government will be fully responsible for all the consequences of an anti-national game pursued by the police and the administration in the State".

CSO: 4220/7746

KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER ACCUSED OF GRAFT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Sep 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Bangalore, Sept. 6--An Antulay-type of fund collection, but on a minor scale, is one of the nearly 60 charges reportedly made against the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr R. Gundu Rao, and some of his Ministerial colleagues in a memorandum presented by a group of dissident Congress (I) legislators to Mrs Gandhi in Delhi last week.

The memorandum, according to informed sources here, alleges that over Rs 15 lakhs have been collected by a cultural organization, Bharathi Vrinda, of which Mrs Varalakshmi Gundu Rao, wife of the Chief Minister, is the president, Mrs Seetha Narasimha Rau, wife of the Chief Secretary to the State Government, vice-president and Mrs Vatsala Garudachar, wife of the Additional IGP, secretary.

The Vrinda, according to available information, was established six years ago as a registered body with Mr R. K. Srikantan, a well-known Carnatic musician, as its first president, with the vowed objective of encouraging traditional Carnatic music, establishing a college devoted to music, dance and other fine arts and an auditorium in Bangalore. The governing body of the organization, it is learnt, was filled with the musician's relatives and became almost a family affair. Subsequently, Mrs Gundu Rao, whose husband was then a member of the Devaraj Urs Cabinet, became the president of the organization and Mr Srikantan continued as its working president.

Over the last three years, the organization is alleged to have collected over Rs 15 lakhs mainly by organizing a number of entertainment programmes which included dance recitals by film stars, Vijayantimala and Hema Malini.

Although the organization has been in existence for several years and has been collecting funds, it is yet to fulfil its objectives. The activities of the Vrinda came to light some months ago when it organized a filmstar nite at Mangalore. It was advertised that some of the top stars would take part in the show, but they did not turn up. An irate crowd which had paid heavily for the tickets went berserk, resulting in a police lathi-charge.

Mr A. K. Subbiah, president of the State BJP, raised the matter in the Legislative Council which was then in session. He alleged the State Government helicopter carried the wives of the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and the

Additional IGP to Mangalore and back to Bangalore and that the police had "compelled" business men to buy expensive tickets. He also alleged that the Deputy Commissioners and police officers in districts had been asked to collect donations for the organization.

The dissidents' memorandum appears to have spurred the organization to issue a long explanation. Interestingly the unsigned explanation has been issued by Mr Prakash, secretary, on behalf of the Bharathi Vrinda and distributed to reporters along with daily Press notes released by the Department of Information and Publicity.

The secretary makes three points in his explanation. First, Mrs Gundu Rao resigned from the presidentship of the organization some months ago, that her resignation has not been accepted and the Vrinda still seeks her assistance. For the past 10 months, she has not been taking any interest in the working of the organization. Second, Mrs Narasimha Rau, wife of the Chief Secretary, has no connection with the Vrinda. However, the explanation does not specify since when. Third, Mrs Garudachar is only one of the secretaries.

The secretary asserts that the Bharathi Vrinda has not collected or received any funds from individuals, institutions or from the public. It had not received any help from the Government and that the Chief Minister or his wife and the Additional IGP or his wife did not use their influence either with the Government or with other organizations to help Bharathi Vrinda or in collecting funds.

CSO: 4220/7739

MIZO NATIONAL FRONT 'NOT HAPPY' WITH DELHI OFFER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] Shillong, September 6--The national council of the outlawed Mizo National Front has found the government offer of statehood for Mizoram inadequate, according to information received from the M.N.F. headquarters in the Arakan hills of Burma.

The national council, which was in session since August 29 to review the progress of talks between the MNF chief, Mr. Laldenga, and the Union government over the last 13 months, has directed Mr. Laldenga to make a fresh effort in persuading the authorities in New Delhi to concede their demands for dismissal of the Salio ministry, installation of an interim government with the MNF chief himself in the driver's seat, and the integration of Mizo inhabited areas of Manipur, Assam, Tripura, Bangladesh and Burma with Mizoram as a prerequisite to a final settlement of the Mizo issue.

The council has also turned down the government demand for depositing of weapons by the MNF men as stipulated in clause (3) of the July 1, 1976, agreement (Mr. Laldenga prefers to call it an "understanding").

Mr. Laldenga will return to New Delhi on September 13 from the underground headquarters in the Arakan Hills on conclusion of the national council deliberations.

Mr. Laldenga, according to report available here, has approached the government to make arrangements for transporting him from Parva, the southern tip of Mizoram, to Silchar in Cachar district of Assam by an IAF helicopter on September 11 and from there to Calcutta on the same day. After an overnight stay in Calcutta, he is expected to fly to Delhi on September 12.

The government, in view of the proposed bandh in Calcutta on September 11, has made arrangements for flying out Mr. Laldenga, his wife, Mrs. Kiawdeki, and his two aides to Calcutta on September 12 and from there to New Delhi the next day. He has been informed of the changed programme accordingly.

CSO: 4220/7737

AKALIS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST DELHI INTERFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Sep 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] In a massive protest march, Akalis from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and other parts of the country walked peacefully from the tented township of "Master Tara Singh Nagar" behind the Red Fort wall to the Boat Club lawns on Monday to demand what they called no Government interference in Sikh affairs. Later about 2109 including 40 women Akalis led by their leaders Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, G. S. Tohra and Prakash Singh Badal courted arrest. They were later released in the evening after warning.

At the Boat Club lawns, supporters of the Shiromani Akali Dal-L carrying safron flags and wearing blue turbans with safron bands renewed their demand for the implementation of the Anandpur Sahib resolution which calls among other things for greater autonomy to the States.

Amidst allegations of Governments repressive use of its machinery to stop Sikhs from coming to Delhi, the speakers charged that five Akalis had fallen to police bullets, warned the Government not to ignore their voice and demanded new elections to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

The protestors observed complete silence for almost three hours the rally lasted, except for occasional jhakaras of 'Bole So Nehal and Sat Sri Akal. But the entire area was barricaded with contingents of the DAP, DP, CRPF, PAC of UP and MP police keeping strict vigilance.

The vanguard of the procession began from the camping grounds at around 10 a.m. It was led by the traditional 'Panj Piaras' with Akali leaders Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, Prakash Singh Badal and G. S. Tohra following them and the jathas of the Akalis carrying placards and banners coming behind. Among the banners carried by the jathas was one of 'UK Akali Dal.'

The procession passed through Link Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi Gate roundabout, Irwin Road, Minto Road, Connaught Place, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Janpath and onto Rajpath and the Boat Club lawns. At the lawns there the Akali-L had made arrangements of water and langar for the marchers. As each jatha arrived it went in to have the langar and then assembled at the lawns.

Even as the frontliners reached Boat Club by 1.15 p.m. the rearguard was still in the Darya Ganj area. The stage from which the leaders addressed the gathering

was decorated in white with kalins spread on the lawns below. On the screen of the stage was put a banner that said the Shiromani Akali Dal had begun its 'Dharm Yudh' for the rights of the Sikhs, freedom of religious places, and the rights of Punjab and its proper place.

Charging that there was interference in Sikh religious affairs Amritsar SGPC president G. S. Tohra alleged that the present Government was moving on the same lines as the Mughal emperors and perhaps there would be a price on the head of Sikhs now as it had been the case during the Mughal rule.

Referring to the various places where the Sikhs had been stopped during their journey to Delhi, he asked if the Government's action was not discriminatory. He said the Akali Dal had asked for three special trains to bring the people. But this had been denied although the Cong-I Government had used 120 trains to bring kisans for its rally.

He said the Sikhs had come to Delhi to seek justice but had been greeted with lathis, tear-gas and firing on the way. This showed the discriminatory attitude of the Government which had for a long time been trying to make the gurudwara its mouthpiece. He said this was in spite of the fact that Mahatma Gandhi himself had given the Sikhs an assurance and Nehru had drawn up a pact with Master Tara Singh.

Shiromani Akali Dal-L leader Sant Harchand Singh Longowal warned the Government that the Sikhs had never tolerated interference in their religious affairs, and if the Government did not pay heed the Sikhs would be forced to resort to other measures. He, however, did not specify what these steps would be.

Former Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal, reiterating the charge of repression on the part of Government, alleged that deputy commissioners and senior police officials had gone to various villages to dissuade the villagers from attending the rally and also kept watch on the truck unions to prevent them from being hired out.

He demanded that the Government order a re-election to the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, enact the All India Gurudwara Act and allow the Sikhs to broadcast kirtan from the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

In between the speeches some of the persons allegedly injured in the police action in Karnal and other parts of Haryana were brought on the stage and their presence provoked cries of 'shame, shame' from the gathering.

Among others who addressed the gathering were Dr Rajinder Kaur, MP, Jathedar Jiwan Singh Umanangal and a UK Akali Dal leader Malkiat Singh Grewal.

A report from Karnal said that a scuffle between policemen and Akalis following checking of some of the buses carrying the volunteers led to blockade of the national highway near Taraori for nearly four hours early morning.

The blockade was intense between Pipli and Traori and even the taxi carrying newspapers from Delhi were held up, the report said.

Mr Mool Chand Jain, leader of the Lok Dal and Opposition in the Haryana Assembly, in a statement in Karnal assailed the Haryana and Punjab Governments in putting restrictions on Akali's joining their march in Delhi.

Janata Party chief Chandra Shekhar also criticised the Government for what he called its "anti-democratic attitude" in stopping Akali Dal workers from participating in their demonstration.

In a statement, he said the "repression" would only inflame passions and strengthen the hands of separatists.

CSO: 4220/7744

LOSS OF LIVES IN KERALA TROUBLES DEEMED 'ALARMING'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Trivandrum, September 6 (UNI)--The Union minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Yogendra Makwana, said here today that political murders and trade union rivalries leading to loss of lives in Kerala had acquired alarming proportions calling for popular action to remedy the situation.

Mr. Makwana told a news conference that a comparative study of figures relating to the last three years revealed a disturbing trend in the law and order situation in Kerala.

While political clashes in 1979 resulted in the death of 33 persons, the figures in 1981 till the first eight months showed 431 clashes taking the lives of 46 persons. While nine persons died in bloody trade union rivalries in 1979, the first eight months of this year saw as many as 12 killings out of union clashes.

Asked whether he called for a 1959 model liberation struggle in Kerala, Mr. Makwana said that he did not like the phrase "liberation," used frequently by the communists. He declined to answer a specific question on the possibility of Central intervention.

Mr. Makwana said that he was shocked to learn that the state government agencies refused to provide protection to the Central government employees to attend office and work on September 3 in a bid to draw support to the strike against the Central ordinance to curb strike in essential services.

The employees' organisation had complained about this and he would ask the state government and the recalcitrant Central government officials to explain their acts of omissions in this regard, he added.

The minister referred to an article by the former chief minister and communist leader, Mr. C. Achutha Menon, which said that there were 17 cabinets, each functioning independently within the Nayanar government. How could Mr. Nayanar ignore this and object to his statements about the situation in the state, he asked.

Mr. Makwana reiterated his charge that the state government had made to lapse about Rs. 1 crore sanctioned by the Centre for Harijan welfare.

Charge Refuted

PTI adds: Meanwhile, at a hurriedly-called press conference, the Kerala Harijan welfare minister, Mr. M. K. Krishnan, refuted Mr. Makwana's criticism that the state government had allowed funds for Harijan welfare to lapse.

He gave figures of Central allotment and releases of funds for Harijan welfare to Kerala last year and said that the Union minister's criticism was "unfortunate."

He said Mr. Makwana had voiced the same criticism during a previous visit to Kerala and a similar charge had been made later by the Union deputy minister for finance, Mr. Maganbhai Barot.

CSO: 4220/7737

RESURGENCE OF VIOLENCE REPORTED IN MANIPUR

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Sep 81 p 6

[Text]

IMPHAL, Sept. 4

Manipur is resting under re-emergence of violence by insurgents who are trying to settle scores with the security forces for arresting their leader, Bhaskar, two months ago.

Daily there are bomb attacks on the security forces claiming heavy casualties.

The insurgents, after watching the routine movements of the security personnel will plant a land mine and the commandos will take positions on both sides of the road.

The first vehicle will be irreparably damaged killing most occupants. Before reinforcements arrive they will vanish after snatching arms and ammunition from the injured personnel.

So far intensive combing operations, launched after the shoot-outs, have failed to round up the commandos or recover the snatched arms.

The insurgents are acquainted with the streets and lanes, unlike the army and security forces. The public cannot betray their whereabouts for fear of reprisals.

Political instability has greatly hampered the counter-operations. Factional fighting has weakened the Ministry, led by Mr. Keshing—Our Correspondent.

CSO: 4220/7727

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY 'HOTBED' OF TRIBAL CONFLICT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 pp 1, 13

[Article by V. I. K. Sarin]

[Text] Shillong, September 6--North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) which not too long ago enjoyed the reputation of being an "oasis of peace" in the turbulent academic life of the country--has become the scene of gheraos, strikes, assaults on teachers, witch-hunting, litigation, inter-tribal rivalries, unseemly poster wars and pamphleteering.

While the 14-month-old search for a vice-chancellor seems to have become interminable, the situation on the campus has come to such a sorry pass that the authorities have been compelled to enforce prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. and post armed police in and around the pro-vice-chancellor's office apprehending a breach of the peace.

An atmosphere of fear, insecurity and distrust prevails on the campus with the teaching staff and students sharply divided into pro and anti-establishment camps.

The North-Eastern Hill University Act, 1973, under which this central university was set up, envisaged a federal structure. It was stipulated that the headquarters of the university would be located in Shillong and the university would have separate campuses in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram.

Unfortunately, the university authorities overlooked the spirit of the Act and paid scant attention to the planned development of various campuses. The university headquarters and the Meghalaya campus, both located in Shillong, have come to be clubbed together, resulting in the distortion of its intended federal structure. The under-staffed, ill-equipped and haphazardly developed campuses in Nagaland and Mizoram have consequently become poor adjuncts of the Meghalaya campus.

One result of this is that the people of Meghalaya have started raising the demand for total reservation of seats and jobs for "sons of the soil". This, in turn, provoked the Nagas and Mizos to launch a whispering campaign for establishment of separate universities in the two states.

The sustained movement launched by the Naga students for removal of the pro-vice-chancellor, Dr. S. C. Barwar, on the one hand and the unstinted support extended to him by the Khasi students on the other have sharpened the tribal conflict.

Dr. Barwar, who was appointed as the personal choice of Dr. A. K. Dhan, the former vice-chancellor, was expected to quit along with Dr. Dhan last year.

Heart-Burning

However, taking advantage of a clause in the Act, Dr. Barwar has been acting as vice-chancellor. His continuance in office has caused much heart-burning among a section of the students and academics and the demand for his removal has gathered momentum. Rightly or wrongly, his detractors have accused him of engineering groupism amongst the academics, promoting inter-tribal rivalries among the students, witch-hunting of teachers unwilling to toe his line, and pursuing the policy of divide and rule.

While the public praise of his "efficiency" by the Meghalaya students' union is sought to be utilized by his critics to substantiate their charge that he is backing the Khasi students, his suspension of Dr. K. J. Joseph, reader in the education department without assigning any reason has exposed him to the charge of being vindictive towards his opponents. Incidentally, Dr. Joseph has challenged his suspension in the Gauhati high court.

The recent assault on two senior teachers, Dr. P. S. Ramakrishnan and Dr. Dutta, knowing to be out of favour with the pro-vice-chancellor, and the failure of the authorities to identify and take action against the miscreants, had further sullied his reputation.

Alarmed over the developments in NEHU, its executive council resolved a few months ago to recommend a comprehensive inquiry by a retired high court judge. The recommendation was forwarded to the chancellor, Dr. H. M. Sethna, who has not taken any step so far in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Union government continues its search for a regular vice-chancellor. An experts committee set up to draw up a panel recently suggested three names-- Dr. N. Suresh Singh, a senior bureaucrat, Dr. P. N. Srivastava, senior professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Mr. M. K. Rustonjee, former chief secretary of Meghalaya.

While Mr. Singh reportedly declined the offer, the other two names were reportedly not acceptable to the Prime Minister. The committee has since been asked to draw up a fresh panel.

CSO: 4220/7737

FINANCE MINISTER SPEAKS ON PRICE SITUATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Sep 81 p 11

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 3--The Government of India is reviewing its policy on taking over sick industrial units and will see that the country is not burdened with all the mistakes of somebody else.

This was stated here today by Mr. R. Venkataraman, Union Finance Minister, in his reply to a three-and-a-half-hour discussion in the Lok Sabha on the price situation and the steps taken by the Government to tackle it. It was probably the only new point which emerged from his speech.

Mr. Venkataraman said it was a mistake "in my opinion" to have taken up all the sick units and "that is why we are in this difficulty. In fact, I do not understand what kind of socialism it is where the private sector takes the profits home and the Government has to take over when it makes losses."

Replying to the criticism by the Opposition members of the Government's failure to control prices, he contended that he had never said he would bring down the prices. All he had been saying was that he would try to keep down the rate of inflation.

"Whether you like it or not," he said, "you will find the prices increasing wherever you go, in India or Timbuctoo."

He, however, said that there might be exceptions. "In a totally controlled economy it is possible to control the prices, supplies, production, etc. But this is not an economy which we have.

Budget Deficit

Mr. Venkataraman said he was still hoping to keep down the deficit for 1981-82 at the budgeted level and ridiculed suggestions that it would mount to Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 crores.

In this connection, he said that of the Rs. 1,000 crores he had hoped to collect from the sale of bearer bonds Rs. 200 crores was expected to be realised in 1980-81 and Rs. 800 crores in 1981-82.

But the accrual in 1980-81 was Rs. 80 crores, leaving a deficit of Rs. 120 crores. This was included in the budgetary deficit which "by the way, is very much lower than the precedent set by Mr. Charan Singh."

In 1981-82 the accruals amounted to about Rs. 300 crores, notwithstanding the fact that the case was pending before the Supreme Court. So the net deficit was only Rs. 500 crores.

Mr. Venkataraman did not, however, give any indication of the Government's thinking on the impounding of the additional DA instalments due to Central Government employees or the freezing of dividends or the negotiations relating to the loan of Rs. 5,068 crores proposed to be drawn from the International Monetary Fund or the resumption of the bearer bonds scheme.

On impounding DA and freezing dividends, he said, "I am unable to take the House into confidence. We are now discussing it with the persons directly concerned. I am unable to give more information on the IMF loan. There is a lot of speculation. Under the conventions, neither IMF nor we can disclose the terms."

Inflation Rate Down

The Finance Minister, however, claimed a great deal of success for his efforts to bring down the inflation rate. Claiming that the present Government had taken over an economy which was akin to a patient in a delirium, he said it had brought down the inflation rate to 14.8 per cent in 1980 and 10.4 per cent in first eight months of 1981 from 22.2 per cent in 1979.

He, however, admitted that deceleration of inflation was no answer.

"A one per cent increase may be flattering to the Government, but it is of no significance or advantage to the consumer because it is 22 plus one per cent and not one per cent. We fully realise this."

He, however, said that the recent by-elections in which the Opposition could not get one seat showed that "the country has rejected your criticism."

He also drew the attention of the members to the world economic survey by IMF which had found that the inflation rate in India was 11.4 per cent in 1980 while it was 44.4 per cent in West Asia and 60.2 per cent in Latin America.

Mr. Venkataraman denied that the Government had given up the food-for-work programme. It had been replaced by a more comprehensive national rural employment programme. It provided not only for more food but also for a cash component which would add durable assets to the rural areas. The amounts provided in 1981-82 for the NREP was Rs. 360 crores of which Rs. 180 crores would come from the Centre and the balance from the States. This had been agreed to by all the States. "We are going to give five lakh tonnes of foodgrains for this scheme."

Replying to criticism by Mr. Indrajit Gupta on the delay in acquiring undervalued property, the Finance Minister said the Government had been trying to acquire some of the properties but legal difficulties came in the way and many of them had been held up in court action.

There were also difficulties in regard to properties held by companies and cooperatives. "We are hopeful that given the cooperation of all those handling black money transactions we will be able to enforce the law. But if we are brought up short by courts and tribunals which give preference or priority to individual rights over the social rights of the nation, then we have to abide by the Constitution and take the consequences."

Mr. Venkataraman said in reply to a question from Mr. Indrajit Gupta that there was no programme or budget as such for raising loans from the international capital markets.

"We had to borrow for an aluminium project and went to the Euro-dollar market for \$800 millions. If it becomes necessary we shall decide how much more we should borrow, considering the various aspects."

Cost Escalations

Conceding the validity of the point made by Mr. Satish Agarwal that the real investment declined when there was a cost escalation, he said, "It has been our endeavour to see that the projects are properly prepared, their costs properly estimated and their execution is not delayed, leading to further cost escalation.

"Cost escalations are sometimes due to international factors but mostly they are due to our own short-comings. Every effort is being made by the Public Investment Board to have a correct assessment of the cost of the projects, the gestation periods etc. so that there is no cost escalation."

Replying to the criticism of Mr. Sunil Mitra of the import duty of 150 per cent on edible oils imported by the private trade, Mr. Venkataraman said it was levied only to prevent the private trade from "making a killing."

He explained that the Government had canalised the import of edible oils through STC and the duty payable on the imports was only five per cent. But certain parties had pleaded that they had entered into agreements before the canalisation order came and therefore were entitled to import the edible oils.

"We tried to resist it but certain decisions were given which enabled them to import. The cif prices of the edible oils was about Rs. 7,000 as against Rs. 14,000 in the market. If we had not levied the 150 per cent duty on the private imports, they would have got all the profits. The reason why I had to issue an ordinance is that the statutory limit to which I can increase customs duty is only 40 per cent."

Fall in Edible Oil Prices

The Finance Minister said that the Government had cracked down on the edible oil trade in Bombay as a result of which the prices had crashed. The prices of edible oil had come down from Rs. 16 a kg to Rs. 14 and 13 a kg.

Earlier Mr. Venkataraman defended the decision to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat. He explained that it was not possible to give Rs. 190 per quintal which

was the price of imported wheat to the Indian farmers as procurement price. If it was done the issue price would go up to Rs. 250 per quintal and the price index would go up. If the Government did not pass on the price increase "there will be a higher deficit and this ultimately would also result in the prices going up."

"Chasing a mirage": Initiating the debate, Mr. Sunil Maitra CPI(M), said Government efforts to control prices were like "chasing a mirage." Despite official claims of stability, the consumer price index had risen from 386 to 439 in one year.

Though there had been a record food production of 133 million tonnes, increase in oilseeds output by 28 per cent and cane production by 19 per cent, prices continued to rise.

This year's budget was "already a shambles." The failure of the bearer bonds scheme and the indirect taxation through "savage" increase in petroleum and petroleum products prices were evidence. He also criticised the wheat imports which he said could have been avoided by proper procurement.

He said Government's basic policies were responsible for rising prices. The Government's policies on taxation, deficit financing, public borrowings and on monopoly houses had the only political objective of building up capitalism.

Need to curb black money: Mr. N. K. Sharma (Cong-I), while commending the Government's steps to increase production, said the results could not be expected overnight. He also appreciated the measures taken to check prices but said they would not succeed till parallel economy and black money were done away with.

Mr. Sharma urged the Government to encourage a strong consumers movement.

CSO: 4220/7724

SPECIAL COURTS FOR CRIMES AGAINST HARIJANS ASKED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] The Centre has asked State governments to set up special courts to ensure speedy trial and punishment of those who commit atrocities against Harijans, Minister of State for Home Affairs P. Venkatasubbiah told the Lok Sabha on Friday, reports PTI.

Two States had already set up such courts, he said.

The Minister was replying to the discussion on a non-official resolution seeking job guarantee to the educated youths of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, moved by Mr Ram Swarup Ram (Cong-I).

The Minister said the Centre was also assisting states to set up special cells for overseeing enforcement of the protection of civil rights act to safeguard the rights of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Special grants were given for the purpose.

He allayed fears of members that funds allocated for the uplift of the weaker sections might not be utilised fully. 'The Centre is in constant touch and dialogue with the State governments to see that the schemes meant for their benefit are implemented,' he said.

The resolution was withdrawn by the mover who suggested a separate Ministry for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

During the debate, Mr Virdhi Chander Jain (Cong-I) said that the recent conversion of some Harijans to Islam was due to their economic suffering.

Mr Rashid Masood (Lok Dal) said if somebody had used money or pressure to convert Harijans, 'it is bad.' He said the propaganda that Harijans were yielding to money should be halted. Such propaganda hurt their feelings, he said.

Mr T. Nagarathnam (DMK) said Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had not been given adequate representation in service in Government and public sector undertakings.

He alleged that the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu had failed to safeguard the interest of Harijans in the State. He suggested that the Government should provide free legal aid to Harijans.

Mr Kunwar Ram (Cong-I) said the Government should provide an unemployment allowance of Rs 100 per month to Harijan youths.

Mr Ajoy Biswas (CPI-M) claimed that the Government had failed to uplift the living condition of Harijans during the last 34 years, as it was following a capitalist system.

Mr Sunder Singh (Cong-I) lamenting the lack of leaders who could champion the cause of Harijans appealed to Harijan MPs to represent to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to have two or three full-fledged Harijans Ministers in her Cabinet. 'Mrs Gandhi is the only hope.'

Mr Girdharilal Vyas (Cong-I) did not share the view that nothing was being done for Harijans. 'Enough is being done but there may be shortcomings,' he said.

CSO: 4220/7753

FRG TEAM IN DELHI TO NEGOTIATE SUBMARINE SALE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, September 6 (UNI)--A high-level team of West German naval experts is now here making final negotiations with the government for the supply of submarines for the Indian Navy.

The German team representing experts from the Howaldt Deutsche Werke (HDW) shipyard has brought with it a final report regarding the delivery schedule of submarines, spare parts supply, transfer of technology and also a project report for the indigenous manufacture of submarines in India.

The HDW shipyard had been selected by India for the supply of two German submarines as outright purchase and two submarines to be manufactured in an Indian shipyard by Indian naval designers and engineers.

Slight Hesitation

An Indian defence delegation, led by Mr. S. K. Bhatnagar, additional secretary in the defence ministry, which also included vice chief of the naval staff, Vice-Admiral M. R. Sehunker and officials of the ministries of law and finance had visited Bonn on May 5, to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the West German government. Some difficulties had arisen in the signing of the MOU which included a clause for the uninterrupted supply of spare parts to India during emergencies. There has been slight hesitation from the German side in signing the MOU.

After the visit of the Indian team, the West German government modified its stand and expressed its willingness to have only "verbal understanding" with India.

The German team now in the capital will sign "some kind" of papers regarding the submarine deal, authoritative sources said.

The government had also constituted a ministerial sub-committee consisting of the finance minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, the external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and the minister of state for defence, Mr. Shivraj Patil to go into the question of the submarine deal.

According to the new comparative prices of submarines and torpedoes, the Swedish submarines manufactured by their firm Kockums, including material package for two subs to be manufactured at Mazagoan Docks and torpedoes would cost Rs. 364.98 crores, while the West German subs would cost Rs. 396 crores.

Naval experts here felt that even though the German offer was on the higher side, it would be worthwhile to go in for them.

There has been some uncertainty about the German deal, but with the initial troubles regarding the MOU almost sorted out, the two countries are now going to put their seal of approval on the deal. Besides, another factor that has gone in favour of the Germans is the revaluation of the Indian rupee against the German mark which brings the total cost of HDW subs slightly downwards.

CSO: 4220/7737

NEW PORT CONSTRUCTION NEAR BOMBAY TO BEGIN IN 1982

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Sep 81 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, September 4 (UNI)--The construction work on the long-awaited new port at Nhava Sheva, near Bombay, would commence by the middle of next year, the shipping and transport minister, Mr. Veerendra Patil, announced in the Rajya Sabha today.

Replying to questions, he said the Nhava Sheva port would be constructed in phases. In the first phase, which would cost Rs. 550 crores, the port would have eight berths.

However, he was not in a position to indicate the total cost of the project. The final project report would be available later this year. The government had received only an interim report so far, Mr. Patil said.

He said the government had also drawn up plan for simultaneous expansion of other ports for which Rs. 500 crores had been provided. The ports would be expected to handle 130 million tonnes of cargo by the end of the sixth plan against 80 million tonnes at present.

Replying to Mr. Kalpnath Rai (Congress-I), Mr. Patil said the new Nhava Sheva port would end the growing congestion at Bombay port, which was aggravated by the forwarding and clearing agent employees' strike in March.

However, he said, the waiting period at Bombay port had been cut down from 40 to 30 days.

"Ship Diverted"

Mr. A. G. Kulkarni (Congress-S) alleged that a ship loaded with edible oil was diverted to the high seas from the Bombay port to manipulate prices in the domestic market.

Mr. Patil replied that there was one reserved berth at the port to handle edible oils. However, he was not in a position to explain under what circumstances the ship was diverted. He did not suspect any shady deals as alleged by the member.

Dr. Rafiq Zakaria (Congress-I) said the construction of Nhava Sheva was suggested by the Maharashtra government a decade ago.

The minister denied the charge of Mrs. Margaret Alva (Congress-S) about the existence of a racket involving diversion of ships from one port to another. In fact, the government was persuading ships to call on other ports where berths were available.

CSO: 4220/7725

'SPECTACULAR' INCREASE IN THERMAL POWER REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Sep 81 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 6--As a result of concerted efforts made by the Power Ministry, thermal power generation has shown further buoyancy, according to a press release today.

The thermal power output in August recorded a 'spectacular increase' of nearly 24 per cent over August last year. Of this nearly 18 per cent was achieved by maximising generation from the existing thermal units and the balance from new capacity additions.

Another notable achievement during August has been a big spurt in the overall power output. The generation during the month was 10,274 million units, which is the highest for a month in the current year.

Between April and August, thermal power output recorded an increase of over 21 per cent compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The total power generation during these five months, from thermal, nuclear and hydro, also registered a significant growth of 16 per cent, exceeding the growth of 10 per cent fixed for the whole of 1981-82. This trend is expected to be maintained during the coming months also.

The power output went up from 43,428 million units during April-August last year to 50,324 million units this year, marking an increase of nearly 7,000 million units. Hydro-power generation also went up by 9.4 per cent in these five months.

All the regions made notable achievements during April-August. In the eastern region, the increase was 22.1 per cent, followed by 18.1 per cent in the southern region, 14.3 per cent in the northern region and 12.5 per cent in the western region.

The rise was 27 per cent in the north-eastern region where, of course, the overall power generation is comparatively small.

The marked improvement in power output, according to the press release, is fully reflected in the big increase in coal raisings as well as in the growth in industrial output.

Another beneficiary of the increased power output has been the agricultural sector. The highest priority is being given to supply of power to pumpsets, and all State Governments have been asked to provide maximum power for agriculture.

In States like Punjab and Haryana, where there are signs of drought conditions, farmers are being provided with power for 12 to 16 hours a day.

CSO: 4220/7740

RECORD PRODUCTION IN INDIAN STEEL PLANTS REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Sep 81 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 6--The plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) considerably improved their performance in August over the corresponding month last year.

The output in August was 4.52 lakh tonnes of salable steel, which was 97,800 tonnes or 27.7 per cent higher than the production in the same month a year ago. This was also 8,400 tonnes higher than the output in July last.

The cumulative output of salable steel during the first five months of 1981-82 (April-August) is 21.48 lakh tonnes against 16.52 lakh tonnes during the like period last year.

"What is noteworthy" observed a SAIL press release, "is that this increase in production has been achieved despite the fact that the Bhilai Steel Plant continued to be under power restrictions throughout the month of August. Restrictions also hit the plants served by the DVC."

Ingot production in these plants in August was 5.47 lakh tonnes--19 per cent more than the aggregate output of 4.60 lakh tonnes in August last year.

Individually all the plants except IISCO exceeded the August 1980 production levels in salable steel by handsome margins. The Bokaro unit more than doubled its salable steel output by producing 1,15,100 tonnes in August as compared to 53,700 tonnes in the same month last year.

Bokaro's output in August was the highest ever achieved by it. It established a record by aggregating 5.72 lakh tonnes of salable steel between April-August this year. This is the highest salable steel production at Bokaro in the first five months of any financial year.

The plant has also achieved a new high in the production of ingot steel by aggregating 7.17 lakh tonnes of ingots during the first five months of the current financial year. Ingot steel production in August amounted to 1.47 lakh tonnes, which is the highest for any August so far at Bokaro.

The production of 42,557 tonnes of hot rolled plates and sheets at Bokaro in August is a new record for the hot strip mill. The previous best production was

39,456 tonnes in May last. On August 30 Bokaro established a record in daily output by producing 6,817 tonnes of hot rolled coils.

The Rourkela Steel Plant established a new high in the production of spiral weld pipes during August with an output of 5,077 tonnes of large diameter pipes. The previous best figure in production was 4,793 tonnes in December last.

In the production of granulated slag also a new record was set. Rourkela produced 29,000 tonnes of granulated slag in August, which was marginally higher than the best performance of 28,935 tonnes produced in January 1978.

The Durgapur Steel Plant established a new record in the production of skelps in August with an output of 14,665 tonnes. The previous record of Durgapur was 14,652 tonnes in November 1978.

Durgapur produced 68,200 tonnes salable steel in August, which was the highest for the month since 1976. Ingot production in August was 82,000 tonnes, which was also the highest for the month since 1979.

Dwindling Coal Stocks

As higher production levels are being attained and in view of the comparatively comfortable position in coal stocks, oven pushing rates are being gradually stepped up.

However, there has been a drop in the stock of indigenous coking coal at the SAIL plants. The stocks dropped from 4.25 lakh tonnes on July 1 to 3.97 lakh tonnes on August 1 and further to 3.66 lakh tonnes on September 1.

Against the required average daily receipt of 35,000 tonnes, the arrival of coal at the SAIL plants has come down to 31,000 tonnes inclusive of a daily average of 800 tonnes of imported coal.

According to the press release, the first phase of the Salem Steel Plant which is due to go on stream on September 13 will be the second major project to be commissioned on schedule in recent years.

The first stage of Salem will yield 32,000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel strips. In the second phase, the plant is proposed to be expanded to 2.20 lakh tonnes of stainless steel and other special steels.

CSO: 4220/7740

ONGC VISITOR RECEIVES MOSCOW AID PROPOSALS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Moscow, Sept 12 (UNI)--India and Soviet Union have evolved 'concrete proposals' for augmenting production from depleting oil wells in Gujarat.

These proposals were finalised last week when Col S. P. Wahi, chairman-designate of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, was here.

Mr Mineev, chief of South and South-East Asia in the department of economic cooperation, told UNI that two groups of Soviet experts would shortly leave for Gujarat to make a detailed study of the problem.

This would be the first major effort to augment crude production in Gujarat.

Most oil wells in Ankleshwar region have started drying up, resulting in a one million tonne fall in the annual production of crude from these wells.

The ONGC has been planning further reduction in the production.

Oil from Ankleshwar is of high quality and its byproducts are useful for the petrochemical industry.

Similar

The Soviet Union has faced similar problems in its oilfield at Baku on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

A leading Soviet expert explained that fall in production was due to lower pressure of crude and the problem could be solved through several means.

Method widely used in the Soviet Union was that of pumping water or steam into the oil-bearing structures to increase the pressure of crude.

This required a careful study of the oil-bearing structure and selection of suitable sites where water or steam pumping could be undertaken.

Mr Mineev said the Soviet Union had also offered to take 'any number of Indians' for being trained in higher oil technology.

CSO: 4220/7754

MORE DETAILS ON INDIA-MADAGASCAR COMMUNIQUE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] India and Madagascar have expressed concern at the large-scale induction of sophisticated weapon systems in India's neighbourhood, reports PTI.

The two countries agreed, without naming Pakistan, that this could upset the existing balance, trigger off an arms race and have an adverse effect on the process of confidence building and normalisation of relations amongst the countries of this region.

According to a joint communique issued on Friday at the conclusion of the four-day visit to India of President of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka, the two countries also reiterated their desire to redouble efforts for a speedy implementation of the UN declaration for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

The two countries noted with serious concern the expansion of the Diego Garcia military base in the Indian Ocean and intensification of military resources in the area and called on those powers progressively to reduce and eventually eliminate their military presence from the Indian Ocean.

They expressed full support for holding a UN conference at Colombo (Sri Lanka). In this context, the President of Madagascar reiterated his proposal to convene in Antananarivo a summit meeting of the heads of state and government on the theme of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The Prime Minister of India recalled that the New Delhi conference of foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries had already, inter alia, welcomed favourably in principle the initiative of the President of Madagascar.

The two sides noted with grave concern the situation in South West Asia and agreed that it carries dangerous consequences for the peace and stability of the region. In this context, the situation in Afghanistan was analysed with particular attention. The two parties called for an urgent political solution of the problem based on respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

They also called upon Iran and Iraq to resolve their differences in accordance with the principles of the United Nations charter and the non-aligned movement.

The two countries also reaffirmed their total support for the Namibian people's inalienable right to peace and freedom and their solidarity with the struggle being waged by the South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

Both leaders condemned all attempts by South Africa to subvert the UN plan for Namibia, contained in Security Council resolution and deplored the actions of certain States which had resulted in the apartheid regime of South Africa feeling encouraged to persist in its recalcitrance and arrogant defiance of world opinion. The President of Madagascar and the Prime Minister of India expressed their strong condemnation of the recent acts of unprovoked armed aggression by the South African regime against the People's Republic of Angola and called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from the territory of Angola.

CSO: 4220/7753

HIDAYATULLAH ON ALLEGATIONS ON ANTULAY TRUSTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] The following are excerpts from the ruling of Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Hidayatullah disallowing motions of breach of privilege of the House against Finance Minister R. Venkataraman and Mr Arun Shourie of the INDIAN EXPRESS:

The charge that the Minister misled the House is based on:

--a photograph showing the Prime Minister signing a document with the Chief Minister, Maharashtra, looking on with a caption under the photograph;

--the contents of that document,

--a photograph showing the Prime Minister addressing a gathering of members of the Maharashtra Assembly with its caption in the INDIAN EXPRESS of the 7 September, 1981.

--the accounts published in the newspapers of the happening of the 11 October, 1980, the date to which the photographs relate.

'Coming now to the comments of the Finance Minister:

I shall deal with the two allegations against him separately.

Consent on Name

1. RE: The consent to the name of the Prime Minister.

There is no document, letter or other in which this consent was given or asked for except the document the Prime Minister is signing as shown in the photograph. The document mentioned the name of the trust as 'Pratibha Pratishtan, Maharashtra.' There was no mention of the new name or that the old name would be changed. Ordinarily, there is a letter of request to associate the names of the President or Prime Minister and there is a specific or categorical reply. There is none in this case. Looking at the photograph and the document (now produced) one finds no mention of a consent to a change of name.

'Now the caption below the photographs showing her affixing her signature was most probably done by the Maharashtra Government.

It could not be the Prime Minister's doing. It is asked by Mr Shourie what the Prime Minister was doing from 11 October 1980 to 23 June 1981 when she asked that her name be dropped? If Government machinery moved with the speed of an express train it would be possible, but we know that it does not. The criticism against the trust had not built up till lately. It appears that between the P.M. and the C.M. there was a communication gap and one thought that the consent was given and the other was clear that it was not.

Whether Mrs Gandhi inaugurated the trust?:

'Beneath the photo in the SUNDAY STANDARD of 12 October, 1980. There is an account of the meeting which the Prime Minister addressed. There is no mention of the Indira Gandhi Pratibha Pratishthan, much less its inauguration. In fact, no trust is mentioned at all.

'In the SUNDAY STANDARD (said by Mr Shourie to be of 12 October, 1980) the photo of the signing of the document appears and the caption is:

'Prime Minister Indira Gandhi affixing her signature on the document giving her consent to name the Maharashtra Government's trust for promoting talents in literature and fine arts as 'Indira Gandhi Pratibha Prathishthan' at Raj Bhavan on Saturday. Watching keenly is Chief Minister A. R. Antulay.'

'I have referred to this caption common to all newspapers where this photo appeared either in English or its translation in Marathi. There is a news item which is reported separately when it could be reported with the news item about the meeting held at Raj Bhavan. In this news item it is stated what the trust was to do and this was based on an announcement by the Chief Minister on Tuesday (9 October, 1980). That must have been at some other function and not the function on the 12 October, 1980.

In the SUNDAY EXPRESS of the 12 October, 1980 immediately below the report of the meeting which the Prime Minister addressed is another news item headed: 'Antulay assures P.M. of policy implementation.'

After reporting other matters the news item goes on to say that the Chief Minister announced that the Prime Minister 'had given her consent for naming the proposed trust after her. The 'Indira Gandhi Pratibha Pratishthan' would grow very fast, Mr Antulay said.

'I have read both the English and Marathi versions and I feel that Mr Antulay probably spoke in Marathi. If that were so, the Prime Minister would not be fixed with knowledge with that move. Even if this was spoken in English, the purport could be missed.

Added to these are the following incontrovertible facts which the Finance Minister has mentioned. They may be taken from his reply.

'(i) The trust was registered on 18 November and there could be no inauguration before that date,

(ii) The news item of 4 September 1981 does not state that there was inauguration of the trust on 11-10-1980,

(iii) The official programme issued by the State Government in connection with the visit of the Prime Minister to Bombay, 10-12 October, 1980 does not mention the inauguration of the Pratibha Pratisthan.

(iv) When the document was signed by the Prime Minister there was nobody else apart from Mr Antulay and the photographers present as stated by Mr Antulay in the letter.

(v) Mr Antulay was trying to have the inauguration on the 19 November, 1980 (P.M's birthday) but this could not be held (vide INDIAN EXPRESS Bombay edition dated 17-12-1980). To this may be added the last paragraph of Mr Dhawan's letter dated 23 June, 1981 to which I have referred already. It reads:

'As desired by you, the Prime Minister would be pleased to meet the trustees of the Pratishthan during her next visit to Bombay.'

All these facts speak for themselves.

CSO: 4220/7753

MINISTER SEES FOREIGN HAND BEHIND KHALISTAN MOVEMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] Home Minister Zail Singh said in the Lok Sabha on Friday that some foreign hand was behind the Khalistan movement, reports PTI.

When there is a foreign hand, you can feel but you can't see it, Mr Zail Singh said while replying to a calling attention by Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee and four others to the murder of Lala Jagat Narain, former MP and an editor, near Ludhiana on 9 September.

In view of the international situation, you can't name a particular country and say which country is interfering where, Mr Zail Singh told Mr Vajpayee, who was the External Affairs Minister during the Janata regime.

Mr Zail Singh refuted the allegation of Mr Krishna Kumar Goyal (BJP) that the Punjab Government was responsible for the death of Lalaji. On the other hand, he pointed out that the Punjab Government had made arrangement for providing a gunman for Lalaji but the latter never took the gunman with him.

The Home Minister said he would enquire why Lalaji had not taken the gunman with him.

Mr Zail Singh also denied Mr Vajpayee's allegations that he was having differences with Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh and that the Punjab Government was not cooperating with the Delhi administration in arresting the assailants of Nirankari Baba, Gurbachan Singh.

Expressing his profound sorrow and deep anguish over the tragic circumstances under which Lalaji fell a victim to an assassin's bullet, Mr Zail Singh said immediately on receipt of the information about the incident, Punjab Government was contacted and advised to make all out efforts to apprehend the killers. They were also advised to take every precaution to ensure that the unfortunate incident was not exploited by unscrupulous elements and all efforts were made to maintain peace in the State.

To Mr T. S. Negi, who referred to an allegation made by a Punjab leader that Chief Minister Darbara Singh had a hand in the Khalistan movement, the Home Minister said: "I cannot think of it. The Chief Minister cannot support such a movement. I am sure of that."

Giving details of the murder, Mr Zail Singh said Lalaji was on his way to Jullundur from Patiala on the fateful day on 9 September. When his car was between Ludhiana and Ladowal, his driver suspected that a motor-cycle was following his car. The driver tried to turn the car towards Ludhiana when the miscreant on the motor-cycle opened fire with .455 revolver hitting Lalaji. He was declared dead in the hospital at Ludhiana. His driver Som Nath also received bullet injuries, but he is progressing.

While the miscreants were trying to run away, their motor-cycle turned turtle and one of them was captured by the people on the spot. The other culprits managed to escape, the Home Minister said.

UNI adds:

Mr Zail Singh said according to information received from the State Government, Lalaji's driver, Som Nath, who also received bullet injuries, was progressing.

The person arrested had been identified as Nichhatar Singh who is said to have extremist leanings. Interrogation by a selected team of officers was in progress.

The Home Minister added that a case under Section 302/34 had been registered.

Mr G. S. Nihalsinghwalwa thought the murder of Lala was part of a plan by communal forces to disturb peace in the border State of Punjab. Bold action on the part of the Government was called for to prevent any further damage.

Mr Nihalsinghwalwa alleged that during the previous Akali regime vast quantities of arms and ammunition had passed into the hands of undesirable elements. The Government should, therefore, dig into the past records to find out the extent of arms in the possession of such elements.

Mr Zail Singh promised to do so.

Mr Vajpayee, who joined Mr Zail Singh in expressing his sorrow, said the murder of Lalaji posed danger to the freedom of expression and democracy. There might be two opinions about what he wrote, but he symbolised an independent expression. Through his newspaper, he carried on a crusade against religious fanaticism. In two of his editorials, he had demanded the Punjab Chief Minister to arrest murderers of Nirankari Baba and put down the Khalistan movement. He had said that if the culprits found refuge in gurudwaras and if Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh failed to take against them, the people would lose faith in the State Administration.

Referring to Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh's initial statement that all the three assailants were arrested and subsequent claim that only one was arrested, Mr Vajpayee wanted to know 'who was the person who gave the wrong information to the Chief Minister. 'There appears to be a conspiracy,' Mr Vajpayee alleged.

Mr K. K. Goyal (BJP) said the murder of Lalaji had direct links with the murder of Baba Nirankari and the demand for Khalistan. He demanded the dismissal of the Punjab Government which he held responsible for the death of Lalaji.

Mr Goyal said editor of HINDUSTAN TIMES, Kushwant Singh, has also received threatening letters for publishing a news item that assailants of Nirankari Baba had participated in a rally held at Amritsar.

CSO: 4220/7753

SETHI REPORTS NEW OIL FINDS IN TRIPURA, NAGALAND

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, September 7--The petroleum minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, announced amidst cheers in the Lok Sabha today oil finds in Tripura and Nagaland and discovery of oil in new wells in proven fields in Assam and Gujarat.

The announcement comes three days after his disclosure in Parliament of the discovery of a 80-square-kilometre new oil field, 35 km east of Bombay High.

Mr. Sethi informed the House of these "small finds" in the north-eastern region and Gujarat, while piloting a bill for the take-over of Oil India and the Assam Oil Company, which the house later passed.

The bill stipulates a compensation of Rs. 21.56 crores to Oil India, in which Burmah Oil Company and the government of India have 50 per cent share each and the Assam Oil Company (AOC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of BOC. The legislative measure is also intended to take over Burmah Oil Company (India trading) Limited.

Mr. Sethi expressed the confidence that oil exploration and development would get a fillip after the take over of BOC and AOC.

The minister repudiated the charge made by Mr. Hairsh Kumar Gangwal (DSP) that Rs. 5 crore had changed hands during the negotiations on compensation.

He said the take-over of Oil India would bring the entire programme of oil exploration and development under national control.

The petroleum minister said Oil India was now producing three million tonnes of crude and 13 million cubic metres of natural gas annually. Production would now be given a further fillip.

Mr. Sethi was hopeful of striking 'black gold' in some other areas also. He said he might make an announcement after a few days. The minister, however, did not specify the area.

He said there were expectations of finding oil in the Godavari basin as well.

He said he did not come out with the announcement about the new oil find earlier about these oil discoveries because they were in small quantities.

Mr. Sethi said that an official team had already been sent to Digboi to work out the details of expansion of the Digboi refinery. This oldest refinery mainly produces paraffin wax, which is in short supply in the country.

Engineers India Limited had already made a preliminary study, he said.

Mr. Sethi said the Assam Oil Company produced about 40,000 tonnes of crude annually, which was fed to its refinery in Digboi. He expected this 52-square-kilometre Digboi oil field to be full of potential and various methods, including water injection, would be used to extract more oil. A thousand wells had been drilled and 400 were in production.

CSO: 4220/7742

JANATA LEADER DEMANDS PROBE OF ANTULAY AFFAIR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 10--Mr Raj Narain, Janata (S) leader, met the President, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, today and submitted a memorandum saying that "corruption in high places as revealed by the Antulay affair is only the tip of the iceberg" and that the President should order an inquiry into the "numerous" other cases of corruption of which he appended a list to his memorandum.

Mr Raj Narain demanded that to ensure a proper investigation, "the President should immediately dismiss the present Government and invite another person of the ruling party to become the Prime Minister".

Talking of "corruption in high places", he alleged in the memorandum that 7 million pounds sterling had been "made" in the "Nelco deal" and the amount had been deposited in a bank in Paris; Rs 32 lakhs had been taken from a shipping company in Goa in exchange for a permit to buy a floating tanker; a huge amount was going to be taken as "kick-off" money in a cement purchase deal with a foreign country; hush-money had been taken in the deal for the import of two million tons of sugar, and the London firm which supplied the sugar had already filed a suit in this connection.

Mr Raj Narain later told a Press conference that he met President for half an hour in this connection.

CSO: 4220/7751

'PTI' GIVES DETAILS ON OILFIELD DISCOVERY OFF BOMBAY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, September 6 (PTI)--It will take a minimum of two years before any commercial production is taken up in the new oilfield discovered off the Bombay coast, official sources here said today.

They, however, told PTI that at least two to three wells in this completely new field, 35 km. east of Bombay High, had to be tested before the commercial viability is worked out.

The first well drilled on Thursday showed a test yield of 1,030 barrels a day without acidisation.

Acidisation is the process to clean out the pores with the use of hydrochloric acid to get pure crude oil. The yield is expected to go up after the acidisation process is completed.

The first exploratory well in the new field, named B-57, was spudded by the jack-up rig "Sagar Samrat" which gave the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the country the oil bonanza in Bombay High in the early 1970's.

"We expect the new field to be commercial," official sources said, adding that after a few more well-testings "we will have an idea of the reservoir here and draw up a development plan."

"At this stage," the officials said, "we can have the drilling platform" indicating that this might be acquired from abroad.

They said that the new field was not a satellite area of Bombay High and could be connected to the pipeline carrying Bombay High crude to the coast.

Hopes of a good oil find are pinned in this area in view of the much older oil bearing formation than in Bombay High. "It is an interesting area."

The new field does not come under the technical collaboration the ONGC entered into with the Compagnie Francaise Petroles (CFP), the French consultants for the development of Bombay High reservoir and nearby satellite structures. But it would be possible to stretch the agreement to cover the new field.

Production in Bombay High itself is now about eight million tonnes and is expected to go up to 10 million tonnes next month and to 12 million tonnes in April next year.

With additional production from Bombay High and increased production planned from both ONGC and Oil India fields in the onshore areas imports will go down marginally, probably by a million tonnes, next year.

India is importing 15 million tonnes of crude and 5.5 million tonnes of petroleum product this year. The import of petroleum products were 7.5 million tonnes last year because of the oil blockade in Assam.

UNI adds: The government is convening a meeting of top officials shortly to work out the details of next year's import programme. Among others the traditional exporters of oil to India are Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Soviet Union.

According to oil experts this is the first time there is a declining trend in oil imports in the country. It is hoped that with the government's decision to throw open 32 blocks in the Indian continental shelf for oil exploration, the country might be able to reach self sufficiency in oil sooner or later if everything goes according to schedule.

The burden on the exchequer on account of oil import has gone up from Rs. 1,681 crores in 1978-79 to Rs. 3,270 crores in 1979-80 and Rs. 5,209 crores in 1980-81.

CSO: 4220/7737

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX RISES MORE THAN 12 PERCENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Sep 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 9--While the wholesale price index is rising at a slower rate than at the same period last year, this supposed "moderation in inflationary pressures" is not reflected in the cost of living. In fact, a more realistic index--the consumer price index--has been leaping upwards since the beginning of the year.

Thus, while the wholesale index rose from 268.3 in February to 279.8 in June, or more than 10 points (roughly 5 percent), the consumer price index soared from 411 to 439 in the same months--a rise of 28 points, or more than 12 percent.

The consumer price index has been worked out only until June. The pace of its increase is bound to rise since the wholesale index from June rose from 279.8 to 289.2 in the third week of August. This is a 10-point rise in less than two months, or as much as it rose from February to May 1981.

This sharp increase is bound to be reflected in the consumer price index since, for some strange reason, although a slow rise or even a fall in the wholesale index has no impact on the consumer price index, a sharp rise registers immediately. In other words, while prices go up, they never come down.

In fact, the sharp rise in the wholesale index in July and August by 10 points contradicts the claim made by the Finance Minister that inflationary pressures have been "moderated". If anything, the pressures have been increasing in the past two months. This is certain to be reflected in the consumer price index for these months.

The rise in these two months is contra-seasonal since the wholesale index usually goes down after the rabi harvest. This has not happened so far, so even using the same yardstick as the Finance Minister, the inflationary pressures have not been contained as is being claimed.

Officials expect that the current years inflation rate will be less than 10 percent (as compared to 16 percent in 1980-81 and 22 percent in 1979-80). Since the much-talked-about "moderation" in inflation is not borne out by official figures, it is difficult to appreciate what the official expectations are based on.

Obviously, the supply and demand management theories on which the Government is working have an impact on prices and the hope is that they will bring results in the next few months of the year.

INDO-SOVIET TRADE QUADRUPLES OVER 20 YEARS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Sep 81 p 3

[Text]

MOSCOW, Sept 13 (UPI) — Indo-Soviet trade has not only expanded more than four-fold in the past 20 years but has undergone vast changes in its pattern.

These changes reflect the pattern of industrial growth in both India and the Soviet Union during the period.

From 1,200 roubles (about Rs 10 make a rouble) in the 1961-65 period, the value of trade rose to 8,700 during 1976-80, according to figures available with the Department of Trade here.

Last year saw a record trade of 1,740 million roubles.

This is far in excess of the 150 per cent growth envisaged in the 1973 agreement.

BRIGHT FUTURE

Until 1976, the growth had been fast but unspectacular. But in the five years that followed the value more than doubled compared to the previous five years.

With the Soviet Union importing more and more of consumer goods, especially those that have run into the hurdle of restrictive trade practices in the west, chances are that the growth in the next five years will be even more rapid.

A trade protocol for next year is due to be signed in December within the framework of the five-year agreement last year at the time of Soviet President Brezhnev's visit to New Delhi. Preliminary talks are to begin in about a month.

There has so far been no balance of payment problem on either side and the trade is wholly on rupee payment basis.

During the ten years from 1961, Soviet machinery were the major export item to India.

But these exports came down from 1,000 million roubles during 1961-70 to 740 million roubles in the succeeding decade despite the in-

creased trade turnover.

The bulk of these exports comprised spare parts for machinery, oil prospecting equipment, heavy trucks and dumpers, escalators and high efficiency machinery.

The fall in export of machinery was accompanied by an increase in Soviet raw material export. These commodities including crude oil, fertilisers, non-ferrous metals, asbestos, and newsprint.

India now depends on the Soviet Union for 60 per cent of kerosene requirement, 40 per cent of diesel import, 55 per cent of asbestos requirement, 20 per cent of zinc import and 20 per cent of newsprint import.

The Soviet Union is today the biggest buyer of Indian goods the value of its imports from India having more than doubled in the past five years. The Soviet Union today accounts for nearly 13 per cent of total Indian exports.

CSO: 4220/7756

INDIA-BANGLADESH TRADE TIES GROW, DIVERSIFY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Sep 81 pp 1, 13

[Text] Trade ties between India and Bangladesh are growing and diversifying at an impressive rate despite unsteady political relations between the two countries. The volume of trade has increased in recent years and India is now among the first five of Bangladesh's trading partners.

In 1980-81 Indian exports to Bangladesh rose to about Rs 65 crores and imports from Bangladesh to about Rs 10 crores. Only a few years ago exports totalled Rs 35 crores and imports Rs 1.5 crores. What is significant is that despite the trade imbalance country's and Bangladesh's small and restricted economic base, the exports to India registered a steady rise in recent years.

Both sides now believe that they stand to gain from such business connections. Bangladeshi industrialists and business men consider Indian technology relevant and suitable because the Indian experience and stages of development have been identical.

It is mainly for this reason that Indian equipment and know-how are now finding greater acceptance than those of the advanced countries whose products have dominated the Bangladesh market for long. Indian products may not be the best of their kind, but they are capable of withstanding the operational factors peculiar to the subcontinent. Indian equipment have been found good enough to take on sudden power cuts and vehicles manufactured in India can withstand overloading unlike the foreign ones. Indian equipment are easier to handle and maintain and are less sophisticated. They are even cheaper than those of the advanced countries. Spares can be had from India at short notice.

Bangladeshis are no longer shy of buying Indian goods as substandard and spurious products from Calcuttas Burrabazar are now hardly available in the Bangladeshi market. Quality products of prestigious Indian companies, many of which have become household names in Bangladesh are successfully competing with those of Japanese, American and European companies. Indian buses, trucks, scooters, mopeds, dyes and chemicals, textiles, jute mill and cycle parts are in great demand. Some are either being exported by India or are being assembled in Bangladesh.

Indian trucks and buses have almost wiped out the Japanese monopoly. Indian buses are about \$400 cheaper than those from Japan. Over 300 buses and 1,000 trucks

were exported recently. A well known Indian scooter manufacturing company is having 3,000 of its scooter rickshaws assembled in Chittagong every year. A Union Government undertaking manufacturing scooters is going to assemble its vehicles in the private sector in Bangladesh. Assembling of India-made mopeds is likely to begin soon. The Hindusthan Machine Tools has secured a licence to manufacture tube lights. Indian pump sets are also in great demand.

Bangladesh is now India's eighth largest importer of engineering goods which form about 50 per cent of India's exports to that country. The Engineering Export Promotion Council is considering Bangladesh as one of its key markets. Machinery for cold storages, solvent extraction plants and small and medium-scale industries are being exported in large quantities. Rice bran oil plants are being set up in Rangpur and Dinajpur with Indian plant and machinery. A sugar mill with a production capacity of 1,500 tons a day is coming up in Dinajpur with Indian machinery. Bangladeshi industrialists and the Government Sugar Mill Corporation are planning to set up mini sugar mills as in India. Two distilleries are being built in Rajshahi with Indian equipment; technical assistance is being provided by a reputed Indian distillery. Textile machinery are being imported from India to set up new units and modernize the existing ones. The machinery of the cement plant at Chhatak, in Sylhet, is being modernized by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi.

Public sector corporations and the new generation of entrepreneurs are keen on having technical advice from and collaboration with India. Joint ventures for manufacturing dyes and ready-made garments have already been set up. Indian expertise for manufacturing hand-made paper from agricultural wastes has been sought as Bangladesh has large stocks of low grade jute and cuttings.

The Indian experience in the movement and storage of food, fertilizer and seeds is being shared by Bangladesh which has hired the services of experts from Indian food, fertilizer and seeds corporations to streamline its own set-up. Consultants of the Indian Railways have been engaged in the World Bank-aided modernization programme of the Bangladesh Railways. The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, helped the local self-government authorities in Bangladesh to set up an information system.

Bangladesh's exports, especially of newsprint and wet blue leather, are becoming increasingly popular with Indian users. In fact India wants the quota of newsprint imports raised but Bangladesh is unable to fulfil it because of its export commitments.

CSO: 4220/7751

INDIA INTRODUCES NEW COTTON ON WORLD MARKET

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Sep 81 p 15

[Text] Bhopal, Sept. 10--India has entered into the world market with its Suvin variety of extra long staple cotton, grown in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, and regarded as equal to the famed Egyptian variety of Giza-45, the Cotton Corporation of India Chairman, Mr N. S. Kulkarni, said here yesterday, reports UNIFIN.

Talking to reporters Mr Kulkarni said the first export of 100 bales of Suvin to Indonesia had received encouraging response. Besides, CCI was also exporting long staple cotton variety called Varalaxmi to the Far-East and west European countries.

He said the Corporation, a marketing organisation, last year purchased 1.19 million bales of cotton in the country of which Madhya Pradesh accounted for one-sixth. It had now decided to buy cotton from individual cotton growers in the tribal areas like Ratlam and Jhabua districts in M.P. to minimize the exploitation of the growers, he added.

Mr Kulkarni said the CCI had been paying to the growers a price which was nearly 40 per cent more than the Central support price to compete with private traders. He said Madhya Pradesh had 640,000 hectares under cotton cultivation.

In his talks with the Chief Minister and the Agriculture Minister here, he had requested them to increase the cotton acreage in the State. A request had also been made to exempt cotton ginning units from power cuts, he added.

CSO: 4220/7751

BRIEFS

TRIPURA ACT REVOKED--Agartala, September 3 (PTI)--The Tripura government has decided to revoke the Tripura Tribunal for Criminal Jurisdiction Act, 1980, which empowers the government to set up special tribunals to try persons involved in last year's June carnage in the state. Announcing this, a spokesman of the state government said here yesterday that the decision followed an improvement in the situation in regard to speedy trials in the sessions court after the addition of three judges. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Sep 81 p 9]

KANNADA DAILY TAKEOVER--Bangalore, September 3--The management of SAMYUKTA KARNATAKA, one of the oldest Kannada dailies of the state published simultaneously from Bangalore and Hubli, has been taken over by the state government. The taking over has been effected through an ordinance and it applies to the Loksikshana Trust which, among other publications, runs SAMYUKTA KARNATAKA. Mr. S. S. Meenakshisundaram, an IAS official who is at present director of sericulture, will be the administrator of the trust. The affairs of the trust, one of the founders of which is Mr. R. R. Divakar, freedom fighter and former Bihar governor, have been subject to persistent litigation and disputes. Following the promulgation of the ordinance, all persons in charge of the trust management, including receivers appointed by courts, are deemed to have vacated their offices. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Sep 81 p 13]

CONGRESS-S PARLIAMENTARY LEADER--New Delhi, Sept. 3--Mr. Bhola Paswan Shastri was today elected leader of the Congress (S) Parliamentary Party and Mr. K. P. Unnikrishnan, its Deputy leader. Mr. Unnikrishnan will also act as leader of the party in the Lok Sabha. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Sep 81 p 1]

HIMACHAL PRADESH AICP--The Himachal Pradesh unit of the All-India Communist Party has recently been formed with trade union leader Azad Kumar as its secretary, AICP central committee member N. C. Dutta said in New Delhi. He claimed that over a thousand card-holding members of the CPI including one State executive member, four members of the State council, one member of the district executive have dissociated themselves from the CPI to join the AICP. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Sep 81 p 4]

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS--New Delhi, September 5--Agricultural exports have gone up by 35 per cent during this April-June quarter over the corresponding period last year. This quarter, their value was Rs. 269 crores. The export target for agricultural commodities this year is Rs. 1,208 crores and 23 per cent of the target has been achieved during the first quarter. The agricultural commodities

which fared particularly well in the exports market during the first quarter include cashew, tobacco, groundnut and cottonseed extractions, shellac and processed food. It is hoped that the target of Rs. 150 crores for tobacco and tobacco products for 1981-82 would be exceeded. The export of processed food during the quarter has been estimated at Rs. 55 crores against Rs. 41 crores achieved during the first quarter last year. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Sep 81 p 9]

ASSAMESE EDITOR CHARGED--Tezpur, September 5 (PTI)--Mr. Pranab Sinha, editor and printer of MAHAJATI, an Assamese biweekly published from Tezpur, was arrested here today on charges of criminal conspiracy, waging war against the government and sedition, official sources said. The police searched the MAHAJATI premises and its office last night. The Tezpur Press Club at an emergency meeting today condemned the arrest. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Sep 81 p 9]

CPI-M LEADER DIES--Madras, September 5 (UNI)--Mr. A. Balasubramaniam, politburo member and Tamil Nadu state secretary of the CPM, died here today following a massive heart attack. He was 64. He is survived by wife, two sons and a daughter. Mr. Balasubramaniam was admitted to the Government General Hospital on September 1 following chest pains and he was kept in the intensive care unit. He had a massive heart attack at 1000 hrs, the state CPM office said. A veteran communist leader, popularly known as "AB", Mr. Balasubramaniam was in the communist movement for the past 40 years. After taking his law degree, he plunged into the freedom movement and later joined the Communist Party of India. When the party split, he went over to the CPM. He became the state secretary of the party in 1968, the post he held ever since. He was elected member of the politburo in 1978. He was also the leader of the CPM group in the Tamil Nadu assembly from 1967-71. His body was taken to his residence at K. K. Nagar. The funeral will take place here tomorrow. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Sep 81 p 9]

CPI EXPELLEES--Bombay, September 5--Mr. B. S. Dhume was elected secretary of the Bombay council of the CPI at a meeting of the party's state council held recently. The meeting formally expelled from the party Mr. Sudam Deshmukh and Mr. Babasaheb Thube, both MLAs, and Mr. Bhagwan Thorat and Ms. Malini Tulpule for their joining Mr. Dange's AICP. It was also decided to raise a fund of Rs. 2 lakhs from the state as part of the all-India party's decision to collect a party fund of Rs. 25 lakhs. The state party will hand over the contribution to Mr. Rajeshwara Rao, general secretary, when he comes to Bombay some time later this month. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Sep 81 p 5]

SIMLA AIRSTRIP PLANS--Mr M. S. Mukherjee, Finance Secretary and the Director of Tourism of the Government of Himachal Pradesh, said in Calcutta on Saturday that an airstrip was being built at Simla to attract more foreign tourists. He said that the turnover of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation had gone up to Rs 2 crores this year, compared to about Rs 1.10 crores last year. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 6 Sep 81 p 7]

ORISSA CONGRESS-I CHANGES--Bhubaneswar, Sept. 5 (UNI)--The presidents of 11 of the 16 district organisational units of Orissa Pradesh Cong-I have been replaced to revitalise the party activities, according to an announcement by the OPCC-I

here today. The announcement made through a press release said party President Mrs Indira Gandhi had approved the new appointments. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Sep 81 p 4]

RESETTLERS FROM SRI LANKA--Trivandrum, Sept 5 (PTI)--A total of 472 families of repatriates from Sri Lanka have been resettled under the centrally aided Punalur rubber plantation scheme of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited. The scheme started in 1972 envisages raising of rubber plantations over an area of 2,000 hectares in Yeroor in Quilon district Kerala Irrigation Minister A. Subba Rao told newsmen here today. Mr Rao said that all families resettled in the plantations had been provided with housing accommodation and employment at the rate of two persons per family. He said three other rehabilitation schemes for repatriates from Sri Lanka were being taken up in the State. They were at Pachakanam for resettling 150 families, at Nelliampathy for 100 families and Kampamala for another 100 families. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Sep 81 p 8]

OMAN LEADER'S VISIT--Dubai, Sept. 5 (UNI)--Sultan Qaboos of Oman would soon be visiting India, Mr Romesh Bhandari, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, said today. Mr Bhandari told UNI on telephone from Muscat that the exact date for the visit had not yet been fixed. However, he said, the visit would either take place at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next. Mr Bhandari is in Muscat on a four-day official visit. He said he had apprised the Oman Government of India's support to the eight point Saudi peace plan for West Asia and hoped that on its basis the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would be able to achieve a diplomatic breakthrough for a permanent peace in the region. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Sep 81 p 7]

COAL PRODUCTION TARGET--New Delhi, September 6--The coal companies have been advised by the energy ministry to increase the coal production target for the current financial year from 121 million tonnes to 124 million tonnes. The prime minister, Mrs. Gandhi, has commented that some departments were keeping the targets low which led to underutilisation of their capacities. In the recent months, coal production has picked up but because of the inability of the railway system to meet the full transport requirements, huge stocks of coal have piled up at pitheads. The coal companies have also been trying to gear up their distribution machinery. The revision of the target will mean an additional three million tonnes of coal and an 8.8 per cent increase over the last year's production of 114 million tonnes. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 p 10]

NORTHERN COMMAND CHIEF--New Delhi, September 6 (UNI)--Lieutenant-General Bhupindar Singh has taken over as chief of staff, Northern Command. In 1974, he took over the command of a mountain division in the rank of major-general. He was deputy adjutant-general in the army headquarters from July 1976 to March 1978 and later commanded an infantry division. General Bhupindar Singh was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general in April 1979 and he took over the command of a corps in the western sector. Air Vice-Marshal N. K. Nair has been appointed director of signals (air) at air headquarters here. Earlier, he was air officer commanding the Kanpur base of the air force. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Sep 81 p 15]

PATNA AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT--Patna, Sept 6--Night landing facilities will be available at Patna airport from 1 October. This was announced by Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation A. P. Sharma here yesterday. Mr Sharma also announced the Indian Airlines proposal to introduce a late evening service through Patna in the coming winter schedule effective from October. Mr Sharma said that the land for extension of the airstrip by 1000 feet had already been acquired. Of this 350 feet had been added to airstrip. The remaining 650 feet would be completed by the middle of next year, he said. With the completion of the extension 1000 feet to the airstrip it would be possible to introduce airbus service to Patna, he said and added three kinds of lighting facilities were being provided. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Sep 81 p 4]

NEW WEEKLY EDITOR--Mr. K. C. Khanna, resident editor of the Bombay edition of this paper, takes over as editor of THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA today from Mr. M. V. Kamath, who has retired. Mr. Kamath is 60. He celebrated his 60th birthday on Monday. Mr. Khanna joined THE TIMES OF INDIA in 1946 as a correspondent. He served as its foreign correspondent in Rangoon, Cairo and London and as a senior assistant editor before taking over as resident editor in Bombay in April 1978. Mr. Kamath, too, was on the staff of THE TIMES OF INDIA before he took over as editor of THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY from Mr. Khushwant Singh. He had served as the paper's foreign correspondent in Bonn, Paris and Washington. Mr. Khanna has written extensively on economic and political developments both at home and abroad. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Sep 81 p 1]

BOMBAY AIRBASE--Bombay, September 7--A full-fledged flying station of the Indian Air Force was inaugurated by Air Marshal T. S. Brar, air officer commanding-in-chief, Central Air Command, at an impressive ceremony at Cotton Green here today. The station, commanded by Group Captain A. N. Mehtani, will eventually shift to a permanent location near Santa Cruz. Speaking to officers of the station, the air marshal said that it would help in the strengthening of the over-all defence of the key areas in and around Bombay. He said that the station would co-ordinate air force activity in the entire sector. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Sep 81 p 4]

GANDHI TO EAST EUROPE--New Delhi, September 7 (PTI)--The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, will visit Romania and Bulgaria in October and November, it is learnt. Mrs. Gandhi will go to Bucharest in the latter half of October on her way to Mexico to attend the North-South summit. She will also visit Sofia in early November and after spending two days there proceed to Rome where she will address the Food and Agricultural Organisation and hold talks with Italian leaders. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Sep 81 p 13]

INDIAN AIRLINES PURCHASE--Bombay, September 7--Indian Airlines has converted two options it held for A 300s into firm orders, raising its total order to ten. The aircraft will be delivered in the summer of 1982, a press release from the Airbus Industries said here today. The airline at present operates eight A 300s of the shorter range B2 version on its domestic network. The newly selected aircraft are of the longer range B4-200 type, which will enable the airline to operate them on longer distances and fulfil its expansion plans as a regional carrier. The aircraft will be fitted with 263 seats, including 31 in the executive class, instead of the present 278, all economy, on the B2s. They will also operate on Indian domestic routes. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Sep 81 p 21]

SINDHI CONFERENCE PLANNED--New Delhi, September 7 (UNI)--Ways and means for the preservation and development of the Sindhi civilisation and culture will be discussed at a two-day world Sindhi conference here in December this year. Acharya Bhagwadey, MP and chairman of the co-ordination committee of the conference, said that about 25,000 delegates representing various Sindhi organisations from all over the world would participate in it. The participants would include prominent writers, educationists, artistes and social reformers and freedom fighters. Sindhi panchayats and organisations in India and abroad had given a very encouraging response to the proposed conference, being held under the auspices of the Vishwa Sindhi Samaj. The Acharya said the conference would try to find out solutions to the various problems confronting the Sindhi community in the educational, social and cultural fields. It would also endeavour to project the achievements of the Sindhi community in various walks of life in India after partition. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Sep 81 p 23]

MORE CHINESE BALLOONS--Rourkela, Sept 7 (UNI)--Police recovered a balloon of 20 metre circumference with Chinese markings from the city near the special sub-jail on Saturday. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Sep 81 p 1]

MANIPUR CONGRESS PARTIES--Imphal, Sept 7 (UNI)--The Manipur Congress-U has decided in principle to merge with the Congress-I according to a spokesman of the party. The decision was taken here this evening at a convention presided over by Mr H. Nilmani Singh, president of the MPCC-U. It was attended by all the members of the PCC and representatives of the District Committees and Kendra Committees. Mr Nilmani Singh was authorised by the meeting to hold talks with the Congress-I on the terms and mode of the proposed merger. A sub-committee to assist the president in this regard was also [?formed]. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Sep 81 p 7]

PROMINENT NEWSMAN DIES--Lucknow, Sept 7--Mr Bishan Kapoor, a senior journalist and incharge of the Lucknow bureau of Blitz, died at the Lucknow Medical College here today after a protracted illness. He was 56. A large number of people including Ministers, Government officials and journalists attended his last rites. Glowing tributes were paid to him by leaders of various parties. [Excerpt] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Sep 81 p 7]

OIL DRILLING TEAMS--The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) plans to increase to 30 the number of seismic parties for oil exploration and also modernise the equipment of a number of parties for the coming field season, Petroleum Minister P. C. Sethi told the Lok Sabha on Monday, reports UNI. At present 28 such parties were operating in Gujarat, three in Cauvery basin, four in the Krishna-Godavari basin, one in Rajasthan, one in UP, two in Bihar, four in West Bengal, one in Tripura and four in Assam. He said one well in Tripura was being drilled on contract by Soviet experts. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Sep 81 p 5]

NEW BENGAL GOVERNOR--Calcutta, September 10 (UNI)--The former Union cabinet secretary, Mr. B. D. Pandey, has been appointed governor of West Bengal. Mr. Pandey will take over on Saturday. The appointment of Mr. Pandey as governor in place of Mr. T. N. Singh was conveyed to the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, by the Union home minister, Mr. Zail Singh, this evening. Soon afterwards, the chief minister met the governor, Mr. T. N. Singh, at Raj Bhavan. New Delhi (PTI):

The President, Mr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, is understood to have accepted the resignation of Mr. T. N. Singh. Mr. Singh had been pressing the President for sometime to be relieved of his post at the earliest. He is believed to have had a telephonic talk in this regard with Mr. Reddy this morning. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Sep 81 p 1]

CPI DEFECTORS--Calcutta, September 10--A CPI spokesman claimed here today that the worst of the AICP factor might be said to be over already and some "rank and file", who had recently deserted the CPI to form a new co-ordination committee, have expressed their willingness to return to the party fold. He said it would not be difficult to take them back, because many of them technically had been non-members. As for leaders, who had resigned on their own or against whom the party had taken disciplinary action, they would have to explain their earlier action before they could be readmitted. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Sep 81 p 12]

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST RESIGNATIONS--Calcutta, Sept. 10--Mr Santi Das Gupta, Chairman of West Bengal unit of the Democratic Socialist Front (DSF), now known as Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and 30 other members today resigned from the party in protest against party joining the CPI (M) led ruling Left Front. A letter to this effect has been sent by Mr Das Gupta to Mr H. N. Bahuguna, Chairman of DSF and convenor of DSP. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Sep 81 p 6]

BJP MAYOR ELECTED--Visakhapatnam, Sept 10--The Bharatiya Janata Party candidate, Mr. N. S. N. Reddy, MLA, was elected the Mayor of the Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation on Wednesday. The candidate of the BJP, which has a strength of 25 in a 50-member Council, secured 28 votes as against 20 secured by the Citizens Front candidate, Mr. Jamisetty Yellaji Rao. The Government issued an order on Tuesday directing that more than 50 per cent corporators should be present for electing the Mayor. The BJP had 25 candidates, exactly 50 per cent. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Sep 81 p 12]

CPI MAYOR ELECTED--Vijayawada, Sept. 9--Mr. T. Venkateswara Rao, of the CPI was today unanimously elected Mayor of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. Mr. Venkateswara Rao then announced the unanimous election of Mr. I. Ramulu CPI(M) as Deputy Mayor. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Sep 81 p 12]

BIHAR YOUTH CONGRESS-I CHIEF--Mr Tarip Anwar, MP general secretary of the Indian Youth Congress-I (IYC) has been appointed president of the Bihar unit of the IYC-I. Mr Anwar would continue to function as all India general secretary "for some time" party president Ghulam Nabi Azad, told newsmen. Mr Azad also announced the nomination of Mr Vilas Muttemwar, joint secretary IYC-I as president of the Maharashtra unit in place of Mr Ranjit Deshmukh who had crossed the age limit of 35 years for office-bearers. Mr Muttemwar would relinquish his present office. The IYC-I president said the Maharashtra Youth Congress-I unit had been dissolved and would be reorganised along with some other State units. The Bihar committee would however continue, he said. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Sep 81 p 7]

SOVIET TEAM ARRIVES--A three-member delegation of Soviet educationists arrived in New Delhi on Saturday at the invitation of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), reports PTI. The leader of the delegation, Mr K. Balakmelov, said that this visit under the Soviet-Indian cultural exchange programme was mainly to acquaint themselves with the development of Indian educational system and work out schemes of cooperation between the two countries. The delegation was received at the airport by Soviet Charge d'Affaires S. I. Semivolos and NCERT joint director T. N. Dhar. Mr Dhar stressed the significance of such visits which help in understanding each other's system of education and teachers' training. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Sep 81 p 5]

SALEM STEEL PLANT--Salem, Sept 13 (UNI)--A steel plant at Salem which was conceived by an Englishman, Josiah Heath, 150 years ago, became a reality with cold rolled stainless steel coils and sheets rolling out of the Salem steel project of the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) today. The Rs 167 crore first stage of the plant, the second special steel plant in the public sector after the Alloy Steel Plant Durgapur, situated in the iron-ore rich area will produce 32,000 tonnes of special stainless steel a year to cater to the requirements of petro-chemical and chemical industries, fertilisers, atomic reactors and for the making of dairy equipment, hospital-ware and kitchen utensils. The steel will become available to a large number of small industries in the country through the numerous marketing outlets of the SAIL. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who initiated work on the project eleven years ago, is expected to formally inaugurate the project this December. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Sep 81 p 7]

CSO: 4220/7757

MOCHTAR LUBIS SPEAKS OUT ON FEUDAL ATTITUDES

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Mochtar Lubis on Feudalism: No Concept To Destroy It Has Yet Appeared. It Must Be Made Possible from Above"]

[Excerpts] Up to the present no concept or thought have appeared or been voiced on how to destroy feudal values in our society. Feudal attitudes have been destroyed quicker in Europe and the U.S. because resistance to those attitudes has been pioneered by thinkers. But in Indonesia, whether realized or not, our thinkers don't seem drawn to investigate and give information on this.

This is the opinion of reporter and literary figure Mochtar Lubis given while he was speaking with KOMPAS at his home on the night of 7 July.

According to Mochtar Lubis, feudal values began to develop a long time before the war of independence in 1945 and were coincident with the development of the powers of kings on several islands of our country.

Feudalism is not something that came from abroad, but it springs up anywhere.

According to Mochtar Lubis, when the power of kings began to appear in our country, the king was considered as God's or the gods representative to carry out His (or their) decisions to the people. So the king's decisions were always considered right and not to be argued. On the other hand, if the king fell, it was considered that the gods had deserted him. This pattern continued to develop and was utilized by the Dutch colonialists to repress the Indonesian nation. In fact, the Dutch provided an even better opportunity for the development of these feudal attitudes.

One of the purposes of the proclamation of independence by the Indonesian nation was to destroy the feudal values out of the life of our nation. But we did not fully succeed in getting rid of them or of greatly lessening them. This can be seen, for example, in the life at the palace when Bung [popular address among men, lit brother] Karno [Sukarno] was the first president.

Also during the "new order" [present government] time, how many people hold onto the feudal characteristics if the life of our society, both in private and in the government.

According to Lubis, feudal attitudes such as these change into a kind of neo-feudalism which can now be seen in such terms as "provided father is pleased". Because power is handed down from above, those beneath are always doing that which pleases those over them. For example, in giving reports, the situation isn't pictured accurately but rather stress is laid on the things that will please those over them.

"It is the same in the present situation," Mochtar Lubis said. "Don't criticize those over you or argue. All arguments are considered as destructive elements."

He feels that reports based on "provided father is pleased" and not based on actual facts often produce decisions that are totally unrelated with the realities of society.

Another reality, for example, the wife of an official automatically becomes the leader of the women's organization in his department. "But it isn't certain that she is more capable or smarter than the wives of those working under her husband. This is a feudalistic characteristic," Lubis said.

In every day life there are families who want and force their servants to bow when they serve or pass in front of them.

"The same things happen in the life of political parties. In the past Bung Sjahrir was never replaced as head of the Indonesian Socialist Party. His followers didn't want to replace him, even though Sjahrir himself asked to resign. This is a feudalistic attitude that came from below because, perhaps Sjahrir was considered the only one having the charisma to be party leader," Mochtar Lubis said.

He also mentioned several terms which serve as symbols of feudal characteristics. The term "bapak" [father] for example is one that is too absolute and this can't be denied. The term Bung for officials is considered more intimate and friendly.

The Time Has Come

Mochtar Lubis feels the time has come for us to discuss our national culture as it relates to feudal values that are held relatively wide spread in the life of the Indonesian people.

It is important for leading figures in society as well as leaders in the smallest areas to begin now to try to inform people in their spheres about those things that are related to feudal cultural values. However, efforts to wipe out feudal attitudes must come from above through examples given to the people.

In addition those in higher positions must also be courteous in judging the opinions of others who disagree with their opinions. Don't allow a difference of opinion to become an immediate accusation of "subversive activity".

He added that politeness ought to come not only from below. "If we want to develop a democracy with sovereign rights held by the people, politeness that is a blend of two directions must be encouraged. Those on lower levels must not be fearful

of showing what is true in an attitude that genuinely honors those in leadership and those above them," Mochtar said. "The feeling of fear must be destroyed by those in higher positions by giving motivation to those under them to make known their ideas. On the other hand, those in higher positions should not be afraid of criticism which comes from those under them. In this way a healthy relationship between those in higher and in lower positions will be created."

7785

CSO: 4213/91

GOVERNMENT MAKES NEW EFFORT TO COLLECT OUTSTANDING LOANS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Outstanding Credit Total for Various Mass Programs More Than 250 Billion Rupiahs"]

[Excerpts] Presidential Instruction No 10 of 1981 is to speed up repayment of the outstanding or delinquent credit in mass programs distributed by the Indonesian People's Bank (BRI). This is so the programs can be further expanded. The main target claims for repayment are those who received non-farmer, potential-farmer and new-farmer credit.

Secretary of the Operational Control for Development Solihin G.P. as chairman and coordinator of the Team to Increase Repayment of Credit in Mass Programs [TPPKPM] said this during a press conference on 10 July at the Bina Graha. In attendance were other team members, Director of BRI's program Hartawan Sumosubroto, various director generals connected with the credit and representatives from Kopkamtib [command for the restoration of security and order] and the attorney general.

250 Billion Rupiahs

There are 10 types of credit in mass programs that at the end of May 1981 had outstanding loans totaling 250 billion rupiahs, including 126.9 billion rupiahs of outstanding current loans. The handling of repayment for these outstanding current loans is not a part of the team's responsibility. Hartawan Sumosubroto said that "these current loans aren't a problem".

Included in the team's responsibility are outstanding late credit totaling 52.4 billion rupiahs, outstanding credit in arrears totaling 68.1 billion rupiahs and defaulted credit totaling 123.3 billion rupiahs, said the BRI director.

The outstanding credit total of 250.2 billion rupiahs is divided into outstanding Bimas/Inmas [government intensive agricultural programs, mainly rice] and secondary crop credit of 144.8 billion rupiahs; outstanding TRI (intensification of public sugar cane production) credit of 54.7 billion rupiahs; outstanding credit for food production of 20.8 billion rupiahs; outstanding credit for public fisheries of 10.2 billion rupiahs; outstanding PUDP credit of 4.3 billion rupiahs; outstanding credit for warehouses and drying floors of 4.1 billion rupiahs; outstanding credit for chicken raising of 1.018 billion rupiahs; outstanding KIK

credit for laying out sawahs of 534.5 million rupiahs; outstanding credit for intensification of pepper, cloves and coffee of 3.8 billion rupiahs and outstanding credit for mini tractors of 5.6 billion rupiahs.

Answering a question Solihin G.P. admitted that he is a supporter of agricultural mechanization to achieve increased rice production, which he expects will motivate the increase of credit for mini tractors. He also admitted that at the time he hadn't thought whether there would be a guarantee for the tractors as regards reserve parts and after sales service. But based on experience there would be positive improvements in the type of tractors needed and the guarantee of reserve parts and after sales service.

According to Solihin G.P. President Suharto hasn't fixed a time limit when the team must complete its task. But he did promise that by the end of December 1981 the team would have collected 50 percent of the outstanding loans. It is estimated that by the end of March 1982 all of the outstanding credit will have been repaid to the BRI, Solihin said.

He added that with the issuing of the presidential instruction this doesn't mean that there were no previous efforts to facilitate repayment through collection efforts. There were efforts but these weren't guaranteed and were unrelated one to the other. With the issuing of the presidential instruction collection efforts were more integral and the organizational operations were better, he said explaining why in such a matter as this there must be a presidential instruction before matters get moving.

He explained that results of this "Simultaneous Movement for Prpayment of Credit in Mass Programs" are reported to President Suharto each month. And the governor or head of a region is required to make a report each Friday to the Bina Graha through the Central BRI.

According to Hartawan Sumosubroto at the end of June 1981 the largest amount of outstanding credit in mass programs is in West Java and totals 58.4 billion rupiahs. Of this amount, 19.09 billion rupiahs is outstanding credit on current loans, 14.66 billion rupiahs is outstanding credit that is late, 24.6 billion rupiahs is outstanding credit in arrears and 18 million rupiahs is outstanding credit that is in default. Then follows South Sulawesi with outstanding credit of 14 billion rupiahs then North Sumatra and South Sumatra.

Later Solihin G.P. mentioned the Bandung district as being the record holder for outstanding credit. This district has outstanding credit of 2.8 billion rupiahs, 223 million of which is in the hands of non farmets such as teachers and workers of the department of education and culture totaling 215 people; village officials, 175 people; BRI employees, 7 people; ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces] personnel and pensioners, 89 people, information department experts, 40 people, etc. In all of this, Solihin said there is outstanding credit totaling 23 million rupiahs in the hands of one village chief of the Rangcaekek village while 9 million rupiahs is owed but the village clerk of Pangalengan village and one person who calls himself a religious teacher owes 26.6 million rupiahs.

He explained that there are many kinds of actions that will be taken to solve outstanding credit. Non farmers will be called in and ordered to pay in full. If they can't pay, they will be threatened with administrative judgment or corporally punished. Third parties will be called in and ordered to pay. If they don't pay in full, their goods will be confiscated and auctioned off and if they continue to be obstinate, they will be taken to special fast acting courts.

Farmers will be called in, questioned about the reasons why they haven't paid, then their reasons will be examined in a face to face confrontation with officials. Then information will be sought on their social status. If their backgrounds aren't good, their property will be confiscated for a specific time period given them to pay up. If the time expires then their property will be auctioned off. If their reasons are acceptable because just, the time for repayment can be lengthened. This is some of the information given by the TPPKPM.

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CSO: 4213/91

INDONESIA CONTINUES TO INCREASE FIGHTING CAPABILITY OF ITS ARMED FORCES

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 9 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Menhankam/Pangab Gen M. Jusuf: ABRI Must Continue Efforts To Increase Its Fighting Capability"]

[Excerpts]The Indonesian Armed Forces [ABRI] continues efforts to increase its fighting capability. On 8 July at Ujung pier in Surabaya Menhankam/Pangab [Minister of Defense and Security/Commander of the Armed Forces] Gen M. Jusuf commissioned another two warships into the ranks of the Indonesian fleet. These were the submarine KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship]Cakra and the LST KRI Teluk Mandar.

These two ships are the latest ships of the Indonesian navy and only arrived last week. The KRI Cakra is one of two submarines ordered from West Germany. The other, the KRI Nanggala, is expected to arrive before 5 October.

The KRI Teluk Mandar is one of four LST ordered from South Korea. Two of these have been in service since the end of February. These are the KRI Teluk Semangka and the KRI Teluk Penyu. Another is expected to arrive in Indonesia before 5 October.

So, since 1979, 11 new warships have been added to the ranks of the Indonesian fleet. These would be four PSK [fast guided missile patrol boats] from Korea, three exojet guided missile corvettes of the KRI Fatahillah type from the Netherlands, three LST from South Korea and one submarine.

"We aren't stopping yet," Gen M. Jusuf said. According to the Menhankam/Pangab before 5 October of next year two more warships will be added. No mention was made of the types or countries of origin. But he did say that all of this clearly reveals that our navy will continue to steadily grow in the future.

But this growth is not only in the navy. According to Gen Jusuf growth of the same speed is taking place in the Indonesian airforce and army. It's all taking place evenly throughout the country.

On the same occasion Gen Jusuf presented commander's stripes to Navy Lt Col Antonius Subiyarto as commander of the KRI Cakra submarine and to Navy Lt Col Suparman as commander of the KRI Teluk Mandar.

The KRI Cakra and the KRI Nanggala still to come are expected to replace the Russian built submarines that are already antiquated. During the Dwikora period [period of confrontation with Malaysia] Indonesia had 12 Russian built submarines

At present only one is operational, the KRI Pasopati which is expected to last until 1982.

The new submarine KRI Cakra was ordered in April 1977 from West Germany. The ship constructed by Howaldtswerke Deutsche Werft in Kiel is 59.5 meters in length. The diameter of its pressurized body is 6.2 meters. Its weight on the surface is 1,000 tons and while submerged 1,200 tons. It is equipped with 21-inch torpedo tubes and its operational capability is for patrols, detection, searching out and destroying ships on the surface and submarines. Its speed is 10 knots on the surface and 22 knots while submerged. It has two ballast tanks, passive and active sonar, detection sonar and underwater telephones along with two periscopes and radar.

The Teluk Mandar is 100 meters long and 15.4 meters wide. Its weight while empty is 1,800 tons and 3,770 tons when loaded. It has a maximum speed of 15 knots per hour.

It is equipped with a Bofors 40 mm anti-aircraft L-70 cannon and a Rheinmeter 20 mm anti-aircraft gun. It can carry three helicopters and its hold is capable of carrying 17 tanks and 300 troops. If necessary it could carry 1,000 troops.

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CSO: 4213/91

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM QUESTIONED, DEFENDED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 8 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Success of Family Planning Program Continues To Be Questioned"]

[Excerpts] Following the announcement of the results of the 1980 population census, the success of the family planning program has been continually questioned. There are those who feel that the program that has been underway for 10 years can't be said to be succeeding. On the other hand there are those who say that based on figures which have been released up to now, it is too early to say that the family planning program hasn't been successful.

Dr Hananto Sigit, head of the special analysis division of the BPS (Central Bureau of Statistics) feels that the decrease in the 1971-1980 birthrate by an average of 8.16 percent over the 1961-1971 period shows that for 10 years the family planning program can't be said to have succeeded. This is based on the family planning target itself which calls for a decrease in the fertility rate (birthrate) of 50 percent by 1990 from the 39.09 per thousand recorded in 1961-1971.

In a conversation with KOMPAS the statistics expert also questioned whether in the remaining 10 years until 1990 the family planning program can reach its target. "It seems it is too difficult to do," he said.

In other words, according to Hananto Sigit, the decrease in the fertility rate of only 8.16 percent reveals the falseness of the statement that family planning is succeeding well in Indonesia, even though its success is acknowledged by western nations.

However, Dr Haryono Suyono, deputy chairman of the BKKBN (National Family Planning Coordination Board) in charge of family planning said that the statement that the family planning program isn't succeeding is being made too early. Up to now the 1980 census results that have been released by BPS haven't indicated anything about the fertility rate including its decrease.

In reality the figures quoted are not the figures for the two census periods (1971 and 1980). The 8.16 percent was taken from the 1979 national economic social survey and is applicable to the 1971-1980 period and isn't a figure which is a result of the census. The figure was only for the 1971-1978 period.

Concerning the difficulties in the family planning program target for 1990 to decrease the fertility rate to 22-33 per thousand, Haryono Suyono who is also a statistics expert as well as a sociologist said there is no one who will debate whether the target is difficult or not. "It is difficult. But that doesn't mean there is no optimism," he added.

Haryono Suyono bases his optimism on several things. When the family planning program was begun in 1970-1971 the major effort was to get public participation in the program (to become family planning participants). There were some efforts geared to the decrease of the birthrate, but only around 1977-1978, after it was learned from the population survey of the census that the public was prepared to accept the family planning program, was the program coordinated with efforts to decrease the birthrate.

In 1974 there were only six provinces (in Java and Bali) taking part in the program. In 1975 this increased to 16 provinces and only in 1970-1980 to 27 provinces.

However, the BKKBN deputy chairman said, only now has a formal family planning program become a national commitment that must be translated into a public commitment in the villages throughout Indonesia.

In addition another "plus" factor is that in Java and Bali that have 60 percent of the total Indonesian population, the commitment has reached into the village subdivisions and not just to the villages themselves. In Java and Bali around 47 percent of the couples in the fertile age are participants in the family planning program. In East Java, Central Java, the Special Region of Yogyakarta and Bali there are over 47 percent while in West Java and metropolitan Jakarta the figure is under 30 percent. So intensive efforts are being aimed at metropolitan Jakarta and West Java.

According to Haryono Suyono, the family planning program in Java has already been taken over by the public. There are groups in society that are carrying out the family planning program by looking for participants, determining the number of children for couples in those groups, when another child should be had, etc. In this way the family planning program has in reality become the peoples' own.

This BKKBN optimism is also based on the fact that during 1979-1980 for the first time the number of new participants reached 3 million couples. Before it was only between 2.2 million and 2.5 million. "So, the basis is different and better," he said.

Concerning the acknowledgment by other international agencies, Haryono Suyono said this can't be due to Indonesia's success in decreasing the birthrate, but is mainly because Indonesia with more than 140 million people has succeeded in getting its people to participate in a family planning program.

Dr Hananto Sigit of BPS also said that the mathematical calculations carried out by BKKBN in its efforts to decrease the birthrate and which are based on the counting of the number of family planning participants to be reached, actually contains a fairly large predictive element. For in reality fertility is affected

by many variables that are difficult to identify. In addition to the social, economic and level of health factors, the variations are caused by the system of values that is developing in society.

In assessing the experience of advanced countries, it is very difficult to decrease the birthrate before the value system is changed in a society. So the number of participants doesn't guarantee the desired decrease in the birthrate, Hananto Sigit said.

Speaking about the value system in a society that must be changed before a family planning program can be started, Haryono Suyono said that in Indonesia there will be no opportunity to do this. "We don't have time to change the value system. It is impossible for a family planning program to wait for several institutions to change their value systems and only then could the family planning program get started."

Meanwhile Hananto Sigit also said that based on BPS data the Indonesian population birthrate is following a normal pattern. For people on the lowest economic and educational levels, the birthrate is relatively low. But for those with higher income and education, the birthrate is higher. Still, as the educational and income levels reach higher levels, the birthrate will again decrease.

According to Dr Hananto Sigit this represents a reflection of the value system that exists in Indonesia at present. That value system has a very close relation to the economic condition of the people.

According to Dr Hananto Sigit the most important thing for BKKBN to watch is the situation when society leaps from a very low economic and educational level to an improved one. Because, for a society like that, the birthrate is at its peak, he said.

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CSO: 4213/91

VANG PAO SAID TO ORGANIZE FRONT, PARTIES IN THAILAND

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 13 Sep 81 pp 4-7

[Excerpt] News sources have revealed that Lao officers and General Vang Pao have established a united national salvation front in Lao refugee camps. The headquarters is in the United States and there is a headquarters in Thailand at Udonthani. Three parties have been formed. They are the Putser, Pureser and the Putei [Thai phonetics] parties. They have allocated themselves areas of operations in the north, center and south of [Laos]. They get support from the United States which comes through Thailand and China. They get training in weapons and guerrilla warfare. The training courses last approximately 4 months, at the end of which they are given weapons and per diem allowances to operate in the LPDR.

Those joining the groups are hilltribesmen and Lao refugees including Meo, Yao and Hui Chinese. At this time approximately 300 have completed training. Training is being carried out continuously.

CSO: 4207

COOPERATIVIZATION CONTINUES, PRIVATE HOLDINGS STILL HIGH IN VIENTIANE

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 12 Aug 81 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Results of Agricultural Cooperative Organization in Vientiane"]

[Text] The Vientiane Agricultural Service disclosed that as of August of this year, following its mobilization of farmers and coop members to understand the line of building economic independence, the spirit of becoming their own masters, and the various guidelines on protecting and improving agricultural coops set forth by the central government, the Vientiane Agriculture, Forestry and Irrigation Service has succeeded in mobilizing and promoting the organization and improvement of a total of 101 cooperatives in the Vientiane area. An additional 29 cooperatives will soon be organized, thus resulting in a total of 130 cooperatives, which will set samples for other coops because they are organized on a solid foundation.

Following the organization of the coops in 1979, the Vientiane agricultural cooperative office was upgraded and became the Vientiane Agricultural Cooperative Sector on 15 July 1980. The organization and improvement of the coops has since been expanded throughout Vientiane. The multi-ethnic farmers themselves have also deeply understood and realized the guidelines of the party and state that protect and build socialism. Many agricultural coops have exceeded goals. For example in 1980 the average harvest from 1 hectare of dry season farming is 3-3.5 tons, and as high as 6 tons at some coops. The lowest average production is 360 kilograms per capita and the highest is 700-800 kilograms per capita. In addition, most coops have sold their rice to the state, and exchanged their production for rice mills, irrigation pumps and other items for use at their coops. As a result, members of the coops, especially the vegetable-growing coop of Khao Liaw Village, have produced average incomes of 20,000 kip per family per year after expenses have been deducted.

With regard to the other activities by the coop members at various provinces, district, cantons and production bases until the period just ended, in addition to the organization of 101 coops, they have given 49 lectures on the modern scientific farming techniques to a total of 8,682 farmers.

According to the primary census of farm households of 1981, there are a total of 30,855 farm households in Vientiane City-Province area, with 129,472 people. There are 52,126 hectares and 6,513 square meters of farming plot. Out of the

above number of farm households, a total of 2,017 households, and their 17,520 members, have already joined the cooperatives, whose farming acreage covers an area of 2,715 hectares. Some 1,338 households, with 10,753 members work fields collectively covering 1,281.44 hectares. Another 2,071 households, with 10,378 members have joined the labor exchange units to work fields of 1,796.9051 hectares. There are also 25,345 private farm households, with 101,723 members, who own a total of 46,866.8262 hectares of farms. There are 7,781 households, with 36,850 members who are swidden farmers working 5,340.041 hectares. There are 1,350.4542 hectares of dry season rice fields. This year's production has reached a new level and has increased considerably. For example, some districts have eliminated private livelihoods which were mired in poverty. These people have turned to join the coops, collective farms, and labor exchange units. These farmers therefore are now utilizing the modern scientific farming techniques to gradually improve their living condition. In addition, the number of farmers who are interested in intensive farming has also increased.

9013

CSO: 4206/67

SPORTS WITH THAILAND HAILED AS FRIENDSHIP BUILDING

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 4 Aug 81 pp 2, 4

['Talking Together' Column by S. Thipthiangchan: "Going for Friendship"]

[Excerpt] The hearts of [our team's players] were filled with hope of victory. We knew we were after victory because our comrades at home trust us to bring back victory. We absolutely did not want to disappoint them.

At 0830 hours we arrived at Tha Deua Port. We thought we were early, but we had to follow our schedules. When we arrived in Nongkhai it was exactly 0900 hours as scheduled. The friendly welcome we received from Nongkhai went on for a certain period, and afterward we proceeded to the city, where we synchronized all rules of the sports.

This was the fourth friendship meet between Vientiane and Nongkhai. If the boat race is included, this was then the sixth tournament since the liberation of our nation 5 years ago. The first meet, the tennis tournament, between Vientiane and Nongkhai was held in Vientiane. The next meet, the badminton and pingpong tournaments, took place in Nongkhai. The third meet, the senior football tournament, was held in Vientiane, and this fourth tournament, a volleyball game, was in Nongkhai, as planned by the friendship exchange between the two parties.

In order to satisfy the purpose of this friendship tournament, our team players have sincerely and thoroughly fulfilled their duties in expressing their warm and sincere friendship toward the Nongkhai people.

Our hearts at all times contain the sayings "Lao and Thai peoples are none but brothers... so there eat fish, come here eat rice; we used to bathe together, and work together; the left bank is a daughter-in-law, and the right bank is a son-in-law." Thailand and Laos are brothers, and no enemies will destroy our brotherhood. [Although] in the past as well as the present the Washington and Peking power holders have joined with reactionaries in Thai ruling circles to try to break the neighborly solidarity between the two countries, they will not succeed in damaging the honorable neighborly relationship, which has been in existence for ages.

When we saw smiling faces of the Thai people we immediately realized their friendship and warm welcome. The atmosphere during the sport events, therefore, was

filled with the most friendly and joyful spirits. Throughout the tournament, the Vientiane players incessantly created lofty values and won over the Thai audience with their motto that "Friendship is first, victory is secondary." As a result, their motto allowed the Vientiane players to interact with the Thai players with cordiality and friendship.

During the tournament the Nongkhai people swamped the stadium, where they became intimately acquainted with the Vientiane players. The atmosphere that day was as bright as the sky at dawn after a rainy day, thus symbolizing solidarity and friendship between the Lao and Thai people. Moreover, the Nongkhai people were sincerely aware of the good will and sincerity of the Lao people, thus they realized that we were there on a genuine friendship mission.

9013

CSO: 4206/67

COMMON BORDER CREATED BETWEEN USSR, PAKISTAN

Peshawar MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 Aug 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Karmal's Handing Over of Wakhan Strip to Soviets Criticized"]

[Text] If it is true that Afghanistan has officially handed over the Wakhan Strip to Russia, then it is a tragedy, because this means that Afghanistan has now been deprived of one of its most important regions forever, and secondly, because some very important changes will be brought about in this territory which undoubtedly will not be very agreeable. Wakhan is situated in the northeast of Afghanistan and falls between Tadjikistan, Republic of the Soviet Union and Chitral in Pakistan. Wakhan is about 200 miles long and varies in width from 10 to 50 miles. Though there is no direct border between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, the eastern Wakhan Strip connects Afghanistan with China. This entire piece of land contains the Hindu Kush mountains and high and difficult valleys, one of which is known as the Valley of Baroghal and is 12,400 feet high.

If Wakhan has really become a part of Russia, then it means that henceforth, a common border between China and Afghanistan will cease to exist as a result of which the Afghan elements struggling against the Russian military intervention will no longer be able to receive help from China. In addition, Pakistan which previously did not have any direct contact with Russia will now have a common border with this superpower. Handing over one's own territory to another power is not easily done. How the brave and courageous Afghan nation will look upon this obnoxious act of Babrak Karmal is not possible to speculate on at this stage because the Karmal government's position itself is doubtful, rather it is nothing. It is only existing because of the support of Russia, otherwise should Russia leave today, Karmal's government will be crushed. Afghans expect anything from Babrak Karmal. Therefore the handing over of Wakhan will not come as a surprise to them. It will be different when the political solution of the Afghanistan issue takes place, then Babrak Karmal's activity will be remembered. His actions have been labelled, by the Kabul Radio, as "Babrak Karmal's Historical Gift to the Soviet Union." In this way then, notice can be taken of Karmal's actions yet nothing can be done. Once a superpower sets foot in the area it never withdraws; it is not easy to recover a territory. By this exchange, the Russians have not established a good precedent. It could lead to many disturbances. Afghanistan did not exist 200 years ago. The Soviet Union has taken over Wakhan today, tomorrow it will claim the regions occupied by the Tadjiks.

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PAKISTAN

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NWFP GOVERNMENT CONFISCATES PAMPHLETS—The government of the Northwest Frontier Province seized pamphlets entitled, "Four Years of Usurper Military Dictatorship, 5 July, 1977—5 July, 1981." An attempt was made through this pamphlet to create a sense of restlessness among the people and violent anti-government sentiment against the present government. The pamphlets are based on false material. [Text] [Rawalpindi TAMEER in Urdu 29 Jul 81 p 5] 9778

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THAIS SEEK INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF SAUDI OIL

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 14 Sep 81 p 16

[Text] Lieutenant Suli Mahasanthana, minister of the Prime Minister's office announced to newsmen that Thailand will renew the government-to-government agreements for oil purchases with Saudi Arabia. For the new year, [Thailand] will seek to boost purchases from 65,000 barrels per day to 100,000.

However, it is as yet unknown whether they will approve of the increased sales because they may have a policy of limiting their sales of oil.

Concerning the prices in a new agreement, it is hoped that we can buy the oil at US \$32 per barrel, the cheapest price there is at present.

The minister also revealed that in this oil purchase agreement between us and the Saudis, which has previously called for year-by-year agreements, we will ask for a 3-year agreement and hope that there won't be any problems.

Newsmen asked him if there would have to be changes in the domestic oil prices when the new agreement is made. The answer was, "I really couldn't make a guess on this because there are news reports that OPEC will have another meeting next month. At the last meeting, they were unable to reach agreement."

The minister also indicated that the large surplus of gasoline at the Bangchak refinery no longer is a problem because Shell and Caltex made purchases through the Petroleum Trust of Thailand. This served the interests of both corporations since they didn't have to import foreign oil.

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